

THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION

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Eccelesiastical Affairs.

OBJECTIONS TO THE EDUCATION BILL.

OPPOSITION to the provisions of Mr. Forster's measure, in so far as they relate to religious teaching, rather increases than abates. The practical question demanding the earliest answer is, what is the course to be pursued with regard to this Bill, so as to avoid mischief to the cause of popular education, and yet impose as stringent restriction as possible upon the principle of ecclesiastical ascendancy in connection with it. Some persons, we see, have counselled the throwing out of the Bill on the motion for the second reading. They can hardly have made themselves acquainted with the prevailing state of opinion on the subject, whether public or Parliamentary. We suspect that a division against the Bill, as a whole, would not receive the sanction of a dozen votes. The object of the measure is felt by all to be one of deep interest to the country at large, and the motives for securing that object are not only powerful as it regards their force, but urgent in respect of time. The Bill, besides, is capable of being so modified in Committee as to meet all such objections as do not grow out of a repudiation of State Education as a principle. Under these circumstances, an extreme course at this stage of the measure would excite general irritation, without conducing in the smallest degree to those results which the objectors to it on ecclesiastical grounds are anxious to realise.

Assuming, then, that the Bill will be read a second time without a division, and that any change to be made in it will affect, not so much its leading principles, as the details by which it is sought to carry them into effect, we are anxious, for ourselves as well as for our friends, that the alterations to be pressed in Committee should be reasonable, and such as those who are in the position of dissentients are fairly entitled, under the conditions of the case, to claim. It should be borne in mind that, owing to historical facts which we need not now stay to recapitulate, the educational institutions of this country, so far as they provide for the wants of the poor, have been mainly raised and maintained until now by private enterprise. The private schools that exist—and that already cover a very large portion of the area of educational want, have been made use of by the State—and in being so used have also been substantially aided in diffusing among the poor the now indispensable blessing of a fair elementary education. Par-

liament having deliberately evoked and assisted the voluntary liberality of friends in the prosecution of its object for the last twenty years, can hardly be expected, and would hardly do justly, to disregard the reasonable requirements of those with whom and by whom it has hitherto acted, and to construct such a platform of National Education as it might be called upon to do properly enough, if it were now beginning to work *de novo*. Something must be conceded to the existing order of things. Something also may very fairly be required of it in the shape of concession. The question is whether any middle position can be found in which the claims of what has been done and those also of what ought to be done, can be brought into harmony. Churchmen and Nonconformists will each have to sacrifice something, or what appears to them to be something, for the public good; while neither of them, we think, should be placed in such a position as would oblige them to disregard the dictates of conscience.

The Amendments entered on the Notice Paper in the name of Mr. Winterbotham, and which we have reason to know will satisfy the demands of the largest number of dissentients, are the following. In the first place, it is asked, and, as far as we can see, with perfect reason, that denominational inspection shall be put an end to, and that for this purpose examination by inspectors of primary schools, into their religious teaching shall not be permitted in any case. So long ago as 1861, the Duke of Newcastle's Commission contained this statement upon the matter—"With regard to the subjects to be inquired into by the inspectors, the majority of us think that the rule should be made uniform, and that the inquiries of the inspectors should be confined in all cases to the secular instruction; leaving the religious instruction to be secured, and inquired into, by the authorities of the religious communities to which the school belonged. The Church of England schools would be then in the same position as those of the Roman Catholics and of the Protestant Dissenters. Their religious instruction would be inquired into by members of their own Church. An inquiry which the majority think might be appropriately and safely left to Diocesan Inspectors." Mr. Forster's speech gave the country to understand that, "after a limited period, one of the conditions of public elementary schools shall be that they shall admit any inspector without any denominational provision." The sub-section of the Bill, however, which deals with this subject, leaves a power with the inspector to inquire into the religious instruction given at the school, or to examine any scholar therein in religious knowledge, if it be done "with the permission of the Education Department, and on the request of the managers of the school." Now, there seems to be no sufficient reason for this permissive deviation from the rule laid down. Mr. Forster himself has contended that denominational inspection is injurious rather than beneficial to those who ask for it, when it is conducted by a State officer; and Nonconformists of almost all persuasions look upon such an examination by a State officer as compromising their position beside being wholly inefficient. It will, therefore, be insisted upon, and we trust successfully, that this permissive exception shall be struck out of the Bill, and that, in accordance with the recommendation of the majority of the Duke of New-

castle's Commission, "the rule shall be made uniform, and the inquiries of the inspectors be confined in all cases to the secular instruction."

In regard to what is called the Conscience Clause, there seems to be a general agreement on the part of Nonconformists, as well as of many Liberal Churchmen, that the safeguard extended to the child's parent to prevent his religious predilections from being overridden, ought to be of a positive rather than a negative character. Of course, the State will not permit the scholars who attend public elementary schools, to be put under any obligation by the Managers or the Masters to attend or to abstain from attending any Sunday-school or any place of religious worship. So far, the words of the Bill are positive and unconditional, and the prohibition which they contain can be readily enforced. But when this sub-section goes on to enact—"That no scholar shall be required to learn any catechism or religious formulary, or be present at any such lesson, or instruction, or observance, as may have been objected to on religious grounds by the parent of the scholar sending his objection in writing to the managers, or principal teacher of the school, or one of them," everybody who is in the least acquainted with the social condition of our rural districts, will see at a glance that the prohibition will be quite inoperative, because the condition on which it is to take effect will not, and cannot be expected to, come into force. It will be proposed, therefore, to throw the responsibility, not upon the child's parents but upon the school managers, and to prohibit distinctive religious teaching to any of the scholars except at their parents' request. The truth is, that no "conscience clause," embracing the conditional prohibitions laid down by the Bill, can become vitally operative, except where the hours of religious instruction are distinctly separated from those of secular instruction. We might safely defy Mr. Forster, or anybody else, to reduce the terms of his own Conscience Clause to practice, without arriving at this result—"Combined secular and separate religious teaching," as in Ireland; and this is what Mr. Winterbotham's amendment provides for.

So much with regard to existing schools: the new schools to be created by local Boards, may be dealt with more freely. In them all sectarian or denominational teaching should be proscribed. The feeling of the country is unquestionably in favour of retaining school management under Christian influences, and hence an exclusively secular system, we fear, cannot yet be obtained. We fear it, because we think it would be better both for the children, for their parents, and for the different religious communities, were the utterly inefficient character of the religious instruction given in day-schools fully recognised, and provision made, as no doubt it might easily be made, for something a great deal better outside of the schools. We must advance, however, as we can. The retention of the Bible as a school book, and some denominational exercise at the commencement and conclusion of the school business, will be deemed indispensable by a large majority. With these alterations in the Bill all parties, we think, might be brought to agree. The measure even then will be imperfect, but it will be fairly adjusted to the conditions imposed upon sagacious statesmanship by the facts of the case. If these changes,

or what may be equivalent to them, are permanently resisted, we do not say that the Bill cannot be carried, but we do say that it will be carried at the cost of very serious detriment to the political power and influence of the present Government, and of the Liberal party.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

It is significant to notice that, notwithstanding the objections which have been urged to the adoption of the Irish Church Constitution as it stands, the Constitution is being adopted in its integrity. The veto of the bishops has been conceded, but, under such circumstances as will probably for ever exclude the exercise of that veto. There has been a great debate upon the Charter of Incorporation, it being moved, on behalf of the authorities, that the representative body should apply for such a Charter, against which an amendment was submitted to the effect that before it be approved, the Charter should be submitted to, and accepted by, the Church Convention. The amendment was out-voted, and so this new Church considers it to be necessary not only to possess a Charter, but that such Charter shall not be submitted to the representatives of the Church people. Why should it be? What has Episcopalianism to do with the people? as it has been put before the Irish and English population, to do with the people? All that it has had to do, as yet, has been to throw them over, and this appears to be the intention of resolution upon the subject to which we have referred. However, the Church is now settling a Constitution for itself, clause by clause, and letter by letter. So far as the divisions have yet gone they have been in favour of old traditions and old formularies. The Irish Episcopalians have found themselves to belong to a very Conservative institution. They decline to take advantage of the liberty that is now allowed to them of altering the formularies of their Church. In fact, they decline to make any changes whatever in what may be called the old scheme of external worship. It is possible that they know what they are doing better than other people can know, or we should have said that some alteration in the formularies of the Church would have been of advantage. However, the alteration has not been made, and the Irish Church must take the consequences, whatever those consequences may be.

The Dissenting Deputies, as our report says, is a very ancient body. In oldest times it was once very vigorous; later it was rather maudlin; but at present it is almost equal to the times, which is saying a great deal. We gather this from the proceedings of the half-yearly meeting which took place on Thursday last, but we very much doubt if the opening speech of the chairman on that occasion fairly represented the opinion of all the constituents of the Deputies. Not very long ago, for instance, the Baptist Union passed a resolution in favour of secular education alone, but Mr. Reed said that all Nonconformists were agreed that the Bible should be taught in State-aided schools. We very much doubt, therefore, the accuracy of this opinion, in fact, we deny its accuracy. As it appears, however, no objection was made to it, and so we suppose that the Deputies agreed to what was said.

There are two Graces and "three Graces," and the two are very different from the three. The two, if they were chiselled in marble, would represent two very ordinary men, dressed in that half-male half-female costume which, according to the *Saturday Review*, entitles them to the appellation of the witches of the House of Lords. Nothing, in fact, can be more repulsive than their costume, unless it be their votes. The "Three Graces," on the contrary, are, as we all know, of a very different species and order. It is out of time, however, now, to address them with much effect; but the two Graces still hold power. They are not of Greece, but of Canterbury and York. An address now lies before us beginning, "May it please your Grace," and it is "Your Graces," all through. The substance of the address is, however, of a serious character. It is to beseech the Graces that no permission should be given to use the damnable clauses of the Athanasian Creed less frequently than they are now used, because such more seldom use would be "fraught with danger to the best interests of the Church." The case is put thus:—

Of the proposals submitted to your Graces, we are of opinion, that either to use the Creed less frequently in the Church Service than at present, or to render its use in any cases optional, or to omit the mis-termed damnable clauses, would be fraught with danger to the best interests of the Church.

Any of these expedients would be a grave injury to the maintenance of the dogmatic principle in the Church of England in its relation to the most central truths of faith, and a new and severe shock would be given to the confidence of many of her most attached members in her claim to teach unflinchingly the faith once delivered to the saints.

By all means let it be so put, and may the damnable clauses do all the good that the memorialists and the "two Graces" together anticipate.

We repeat here, from another column, an important announcement with respect to the State Church in India. It is—

The Government of India has consulted the Bishop of Calcutta and the Bengal Government with respect to a scheme for relieving the State of the charge for chaplains at the presidency towns and some of the larger Mofussil stations. The opinion is said to be growing that the time has come when the civil members of the English Church in India may be fairly asked to support their own clergy, leaving the State to provide for the spiritual need of the army.

India gone, and what will be left outside of England itself for the imperial maintenance of the State-Church principle?

The *Pall Mall Gazette* of Monday has an article on "State and Church in America." The article is of a very fragmentary nature, but the information that it contains is, so far as it goes, of value. We confine ourselves to a portion of the educational results of the principle which has been adopted in some of the States. This, for instance, is what has occurred in Ohio, and this is the result of what has taken place there:—

The School Board of Cincinnati, by a vote of nearly two-thirds, decided some time since that the reading of the Bible and singing of hymns with which the schools were ordinarily opened should be suspended. An injunction was instituted against the carrying out of this decision, and the case was argued by the leading lawyers of the State at great length in November last. In the decision just given—sustaining the injunction—two of the judges agreed, while the third read a dissenting opinion. The case for the School Board rested on the assertion that the reading of the Protestant Bible was an oppression to Catholics, Jews, and to others who believed that there were errors in the Bible—all of whom were taxed to support the schools—and was inconsistent with the provision in the 7th section of the Bill of Rights of Ohio, which reads as follows:—

"All men have a natural and inalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own conscience. No person shall be compelled to attend, erect, or support any place of worship against his consent; and no preference shall be given by law to any religious society, nor shall any interference with the rights of conscience be permitted. No religious test shall be required as a qualification for office, nor shall any person be incompetent to be a witness on account of his religious belief; but nothing herein shall be construed to dispense with oaths or affirmations. Religion, morality, and knowledge, however, being essential to good government, it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to pass suitable laws to protect every religious denomination in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public worship, and to encourage schools and the means of instruction."

The reading of the Bible, it was said, kept from one-third to three-fifths of the children out of the city schools. The majority of the Court held that under the last clause the State is connected with religion; that all are taxed to "protect" religious worship; that Church property is under it exempt from taxation; that the family Bible is exempted from executions; that in the Apprentice Law the master is bound at the close of his term to give the apprentice a copy of the Bible; that by the Penitentiary Law each criminal is furnished with a Bible; that the Bible is placed by law in every court of justice; that for these Bibles all citizens are taxed; that blasphemy is made criminal, not only against the Supreme Being, but the Son and the Holy Ghost—names found only in the Bible; that "religion" did not mean natural religion; and that while they did not regard the English Bible as a sectarian book, so far as Catholics, Jews, and Rationalists are concerned, they were at liberty to have their own schools, and also to raise the quite different question as to the justice of the present distribution of school rates.

The decisions of the two courts to which we have referred have produced great excitement in the United States. There are a large number of societies in America which call themselves "infidel," and one or two theistic Churches, which may possibly be affected by Judge Sharwood's decision, since the laws of the various States are almost identical on the subjects involved in it. But the decision in the Cincinnati case—which has been looked for with great anxiety throughout the country—promises to result in a religious struggle throughout the country. It is understood that the Roman Catholics will immediately take measures to demand a release from the school rates, or at least a proportion of the school fund for their separate schools. They have already secured this in New York, and it is predicted by the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, Horace Greeley, and others, that unless the Bible can be withdrawn from the common schools every denomination will claim the immunity which must be conceded to the Catholics, and thus the whole educational system will crumble away.

This is much less important than it seems. We can remember the time when a similar controversy took place in New York, and when the Irish Catholics there attempted to browbeat the authorities, as they always will attempt to do. The authorities, however, stood firm, and succeeded in maintaining their point. But, is it not significant that, as in England, so in America, the Irish Catholic element should be the only element of social, religious, and educational discord?

THE IRISH CHURCH CONVENTION.

The Convention has been sitting in Dublin during the past week, and discussing the draft constitution. In respect to Clause 6, it was resolved that one-third of the elected members of the Church Body retire each year. On Wednesday Clause 18 came

on for consideration. It was as follows:—"That the representative body shall, as soon as conveniently may be after its appointment, apply to Her Majesty for a charter of incorporation, pursuant to the provisions hereinbefore contained, or as near that as may be." In the course of the debate, Mr. NORMAN, Q.C., moved the following amendment:—"That the charter of incorporation of the representative Church Body shall, when approved of by the law advisers of the Crown, be submitted to this Convention before the same is finally accepted." A division was pressed for, and the following was the return:—For the amendment, 86; against, 228; majority against, 142. The Primate presented communications which he had received from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York expressive of deep and heartfelt sympathy for the sister Church in Ireland. 3,777 signatures are appended. Loud and prolonged cheering greeted these communications. General Dunne's amendment was then put—"That a committee be appointed to prepare the draft charter for the future Representative Body, and report to the Convention, and that the following members constitute the committee:—Master Brooke, Judge Longfield, Dr. Joly, Mr. Gamble, Q.C., Dr. Ball, Dr. Hart, Archdeacon Stopford, Mr. Lefroy, Q.C., Dr. Galbraith, Dr. Salmon, Mr. Pilkington, Q.C., Mr. Norman, Q.C., Sir Joseph Napier, the Duke of Abercorn, Professor Jellett; and that the committee have power, in cases of resignation, to add to their number, but not to exceed fifteen." The amendment was passed.

Thursday was chiefly occupied with a motion brought forward by Archdeacon STOPFORD, to the effect that the General Synod may, if it sees fit, take into consideration any recommendation which may have been unanimously agreed to by the Ritual Commissioners in England, without compelling it to pass through the various stages by which, under previous regulations, it would be obliged to pass. The object of the motion was to bring a division of services, and such alterations in the Lectionary and other parts of the Prayer-book as the Ritual Commissioners may recommend, under the consideration of the General Synod at an earlier period, and to enable it to be passed by easier stages than would otherwise be the case. A long and interesting debate followed, after which the Archdeacon's motion was carried by 178 to 109 votes. Subsequently, on the motion of Sir JAMES LANGRISH, it was added that the concurrence of two-thirds of each order present and voting must be given before any alteration such as proposed could be made, and Archdeacon Stopford's resolution, so amended, passed. The Rev. JAMES WALSH then moved that a Select Committee be appointed to consider the names of the united dioceses in which it was needful to hold a separate Diocesan Synod, but it was finally agreed that this would best be determined by each diocese by itself.

On Friday Professor GALBRAITH presented the report of the Clerical Representatives Committee, allocating the clerical representatives to the various dioceses as follows:—Armagh 24, Meath 12, Derry 16, Down 20, Kilmore 17, Tuam 10, Dublin 29, Ossory 21, Cashel 13, Cork 22, Killaloe 10, Limerick 10; exempt jurisdiction of Newry and Mourne 1; total clerical representatives 208. The consideration of the report was fixed for Friday. The PRIMATE then urged upon the Convention the necessity of expediting its business as much as possible, as there was still a great deal of work before them. The Convention then proceeded to consider the constitution of Diocesan Synods. Upon Clause 1, a long discussion arose as to whether each separate diocese should have a separate Diocesan Synod, it being in some cases geographically impossible to assemble the clerical and lay representatives of some of the united dioceses in one place. It was finally decided that each separate diocese should decide for itself whether it would have its own Diocesan Synod, or unite with the other dioceses under the same bishop. The Rev. JAMES WALSH then moved that the words "priests' orders" should be omitted in the qualifications required of a clergyman who should be entitled to a seat in the Diocesan Synod, thus admitting deacons to the Synod, so that in future it would consist "of the benefited and the licensed clergy, and of at least one synodman from each parish." The admission of the deacons was advocated by the Dean of Cashel, by Lord James Butler, and the Rev. J. Brandon; and opposed by the Bishop and Archdeacon of Meath, Vice-Chancellor Chatterton, the Rev. J. G. Scott, and Dr. Alfred Lee, who divided the House upon the question. A vote by orders was called for, when there appeared—163 for the omission, and 101 against it. There being a majority of both orders in favour of the omission of the words, they were struck out accordingly. On Clause 3, the question arose as to whether the synodmen in any Diocesan Synod should be two or one for each of the officiating clergymen. In the diocese of Cork an equality had been established, while in that of Down and Connor the principle of two laity to one clergyman had been adopted. It was considered desirable that a uniform system should be established throughout the country, and a majority of the dioceses had declared in favour of two to one. This was carried, leave being given to any diocese to establish for itself the equality of clerical and lay representatives if it so desired.

THE BAHAMAS DISESTABLISHMENT ACT.

The return moved for by Mr. Miall in the course of the last session, of the Act passed by the Legislature of the Bahamas for the Disendowment of the Church of England in that colony, has now been issued. The Act consists of sixteen clauses, preceded by

an important preamble, which states the reasons of disestablishment. These reasons are as follow:—

Whereas the present condition of the colonial finances renders it necessary that the public expenditure should be reduced. And whereas the United Churches of England and Ireland, and the Presbyterian Church of Saint Andrew, are supported and maintained by funds derived from the general revenue; and whereas a very large number of the inhabitants of the islands comprised within this Government are connected with denominations of the Christian religion other than those aforesaid, and contribute voluntarily towards the support and maintenance of their ministers and churches; and whereas the double burthen of supporting by private donations their own ministers and churches, and by taxation the clergy and churches of the United Churches of England and Ireland, and the Church of Saint Andrew, has occasioned great discontent, and it is therefore expedient that a change should take place in the laws regulating the present ecclesiastical establishment of the colony in such a manner as will be least injurious to the religious interests of a large number of the people who have hitherto been dependent upon State-aid alone; and as it will in its results ultimately effect the desired reduction in the public expenditure and the termination of all causes of discontent; may it therefore please the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, &c.

The Act then goes on to provide that, after its commencement, the building of

Churches, chapels, or other ecclesiastical edifices of the said United Churches of England and Ireland, or of any branch of the Presbyterian Church, or of any other Church or religious denomination whatever, and the repair of or addition to all churches, chapels, and other ecclesiastical edifices of the hereinbefore named Churches, shall cease to be a charge on the general revenue of the colony, any existing right or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

It is next provided that the legal estate of all the Churches shall in future be vested in commissioners upon trust, and the bishops, with certain clergy and lay members, to be the commissioners. It provides for the appointment of the lay commissioners; secures their present salaries to the clergy for seven years only; states that no ecclesiastical character shall in future attach to parishes; and abolishes vestries. The Act was to take effect within thirty days after her Majesty's assent should have been notified in the colony, and not sooner.

THE DEPUTIES OF THE THREE DENOMINATIONS.

The half-yearly meeting of this ancient representative body took place at the Cannon-street Hotel on Thursday; the president of the deputies, Mr. Charles Reed, M.P., in the chair. In introducing the business, Mr. Reed said that there were times of strife in the House of Commons, and there were times of peace. Just now it seemed as though parties were resting after the severest conflict of modern times; and to him personally it would be a source of satisfaction, since the nation must acknowledge party government, that bitterness of party spirit might at times be quenched in view of the great public questions that demanded the unbiased consideration of both parties in the State. Of all party questions, however, the evil spirit of party was never so much aroused as in those which involved religion, and it was a consummation devoutly to be desired when some wise Government might lead a willing legislature to emancipate itself from the necessity of dealing with a class of questions utterly foreign to its legitimate purpose. The year 1869 had been notable in this direction, and he believed there were yet better things in store, and things that would tend to peace. He then referred to the education question, eulogising the spirit in which Mr. Forster had framed his measure, and asserting that whatever the differences of opinion existing amongst Nonconformists in reference to it, on three points they were agreed, viz., they insisted that the parental responsibility should be recognised, and that the self-reliance of the people should be upheld, and that while no denominational teaching should be allowed in any aided school, no regulation should be permitted to exclude the Bible from the schoolroom or the appeal to it in the process of moral culture and daily discipline. The religion of the Bible must be the foundation of all true education. The character could be moulded and the heart trained without the use of a Catechism, but no teacher worth the name could train a child in daily life without an appeal to the grand authority of the sacred Scriptures. For his part, so grave were some of the tendencies, if not the provisions, of the bill, that he did not expect to see it pass this session. And he saw no reason for undue haste; for most undoubtedly the whole demand for speedy legislation was based upon a most exaggerated view of the utter ignorance of the people. He felt that it would be needful to summon the whole body of representatives together to consider their course of action.

Several resolutions were adopted on other subjects; and the meeting was addressed by Mr. Mills, Mr. W. H. Michael, Mr. J. Glover, Mr. Ellington, and Mr. W. Edwards. The meeting then proceeded to elect by ballot the committee for 1870.

BUNHILL-FIELDS BURIAL GROUND.

A report of the Bunhill-fields Committee of the Corporation has just been published. In it they state that it was referred to them to carry into execution an Act, which received the Royal assent on the 15th July, 1867, for the preservation of Bunhill-fields burial-ground as an open space, and that they were subsequently empowered by the Court of Common Council to afford opportunities to the relatives and representatives of persons buried in the ground to restore

those tombs in which they had an interest, to take every precaution to prevent any desecration there, and to arrange for the re-erection of the wall of the ground near the City-road, and for the provision of new gates and railings at an expense not exceeding 1,000*l*. The tender of Messrs. Browne and Robinson was accepted, and the work had been completed in a satisfactory manner, and within the sum provided. They also gave directions for the construction of a number of paths, so planned as but slightly to interfere with the position of gravestones, and yet leading to or near to the tombs of principal interest. Adjoining the paths they had caused to be planted, at intervals on either side, an additional number of plane and other trees, exceeding 600 in all, which they believe in a few years will add materially to the appearance of the ground. On their taking possession of the ground it was found to be full of holes, which required filling up and restoring to a level round the tombs, and this work occupied much time and labour. Some of the head and foot stones were in a dangerous condition, and others had sunk into the ground so as to be almost lost to view. Those they directed should, where necessary, be raised and set in upright positions, and upwards of 450 stones had been so dealt with. The inscriptions of certain of the tombs had also been restored, and in some instances the tombs had been bricked up and repaired where such a course appeared to be imperatively requisite. That work of restoration involved very considerable expense. The appeal to the owners of graves to repair their own property had in many cases been responded to. A plan of the ground and a record of every name and inscription had been made by Mr. George Rogers under their direction, and would be kept in the Guildhall for public inspection. The ground was opened and dedicated to public use by the late Lord Mayor, on the 14th of October last. The committee, in conclusion, recommend that they should be dissolved; that the management of the ground should be in future left to the General Purposes Committee; and that an annual survey of the ground should be made by them. No less than 531*l*. was expended in connection with obtaining the Acts of Parliament to preserve the ground as an open space; 1,194*l*. for planting trees, making new paths, &c.; and 770*l*. for new stone-work, railings, gates, and other works. The total expense connected with the proceedings of the committee had been 3,199*l*. 18*s*. 11*d*. The report will be presented by Mr. Charles Reed, M.P., the chairman of the committee, at the next meeting of the Court of Common Council.

THE COUNCIL AT ROME.

The Rome correspondent of the *Mémorial Diplomatique* gives a summary of the reply of the Papal Government to the recent despatch of Count Beust. After replying to the objections raised to the canons of the scheme, Cardinal Antonelli says—"As regards Austria, whatever may be the decision of the Council, the Concordat of 1855 will be conscientiously observed by the Holy See, which by no means thinks of employing its authority for turning away the bishops from the obedience due to the organic laws of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The Schema of the twenty-one canons does not tend in any way to encroach upon the rights of the State. Its sole object is to proclaim the true doctrines of the Catholic Church, leaving men's consciences free to conform to them or not." Cardinal Antonelli has also addressed a note to Monsignor Chigi, at Paris, by Prince Borghese, in reply to the counsels of M. Ollivier and Count Daru. He explains the motives which prompted the Pope to withdraw and abolish, in his *motu proprio* of Gaeta, all the reforms which he promulgated at Rome in 1847-8, and adds that his whole experience forbids the Pope to return to the policy which he pursued in the first years of his reign, and which was used by the revolution as an instrument to overthrow the Pontifical throne. No political reforms are possible till the Holy See is repossessed of its lost provinces, and an end is put to the dream of Italian unity. Then it may be practicable to devise some *mezzo termine*, which will enable the Pontifical Government to follow the counsels of France, without laying itself open to the attacks of the Italian revolutionists or endangering those Governments which shall succeed the Italian monarchy.

The *Opinione* states that Count Daru has written an imperative letter to Cardinal Antonelli respecting the desire of France that the discussion on the question of Papal Infallibility should cease. Another, and it is said a more trustworthy, rumour, is current in Rome, to the effect that the Count has merely claimed the right of France to send an ambassador to the Council.

The Roman correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* is informed that the dogma of Infallibility will be proclaimed in the form devised by St. Alphonsus de Liguori.

The *Civiltà Cattolica*, the organ of Infallibility, has replied to Dr. Dollinger's celebrated criticism on the petition in favour of the doctrine of Infallibility, and declares that the present belief of the Church on the question is fully proved by the very petition of the Fathers in Council against which he remonstrates. Respecting Dollinger's argument that the dogma would produce a revolution in Catholic Christianity, the *Civiltà* says that, besides being insolent in venturing to contradict the Council assembled at Rome, this proposition is utterly false, since it would deprive the Church of the right of ever defining a dogma. It declares that Gallicanism has descended from the school to the streets, and, no longer content with tolerance, it demands equal rights with the truth. The *Civiltà Cat-*

olica also says that the German scholar cannot read Latin, and charges him with bad faith. In conclusion, it begs Dr. Dollinger to remember he is growing old, and to fix his mind on the judgment-seat of God: "Let him ask himself whether he will be able to meet Christ with a firm confidence after opposing, by act and writing, the highest prerogative of His representative on earth."

Count Montalembert was sufficiently well to write on the 28th of last month a long letter defending himself from the charge of inconsistency in having formerly opposed Gallicanism, and now condemning the Ultramontane party at Rome. What he formerly opposed was in effect Erastianism; it was solely the oppressive or vexatious intervention of the temporal power in spiritual interests, an interference which a portion of our old and illustrious French clergy had sometimes too easily accepted. But I venture to say (Count Montalembert adds) that you will not find, any more in my speech of 1847 than in my other speeches or writings, a single word in conformity with the doctrines or pretensions of the Ultramontanes of the present day; and that for an excellent reason—which is, that nobody had thought of advocating or raising them during the period between my entrance into public life and the advent of the Second Empire. Never, thank heaven, have I thought, said, or written anything favourable to the personal and separate infallibility of the Pope, such as it is sought to impose upon us; nor to the theocracy, the dictatorship of the Church, which I did my best to reprobate in that history of the 'Monks of the West.' In conclusion, Count Montalembert writes:—"Without having either the will or the power to discuss the question now debating in the Council, I hail with the most grateful admiration, first, the great and generous Bishop of Orleans, then the eloquent and intrepid priests who have had the courage to place themselves across the path of the torrent of adulation, imposture, and servility by which we risk being swallowed up. Thanks to them, Catholic France will not have remained too much below Germany, Hungary, and America. I publicly pride myself, and more than I can express by words, to have them for friends and for brother academicians. I have but one regret, that of being prevented by illness from descending into the arena in their suite, not certainly on the ground of theology, but on that of history and of the social and political consequences of the system they contend against."

It is now definitely announced by the German papers that "Janus" is not the work of Dr. Dollinger, but of Prof. Hüber, who has been long known in Munich as a strong opponent of Papal claims.

It is reported that the Pope has again sent an order to Monsignor Randi for the expulsion from Rome of Sir John Acton, whom rumour designates as the special correspondent of the *Times*; but the Minister of Police still hesitates.

The Bishop of Hereford has conferred the vacant canonry on the Rev. Dr. Jebb.

The *John Bull* learns that the Rev. Edward Husband, who recently joined the Roman Communion, has returned to the English Church.

A Catholic priest in Algeria, the Abbé de Laporte, has just abjured Romanism and become a convert to Protestantism.

It appears that the new Roman Catholic Bishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland is to be the Very Rev. P. Conroy, who has been for a length of time chaplain to Cardinal Cullen.

THE ATHANASIAN CREED.—A memorial, promoted by Dr. Pusey, to the two archbishops, is being circulated for signatures, the object of which is to beg their Graces not to sanction the disuse of the Athanasian Creed. The memorialists believe "that either to use the Creed less frequently in the Church Service than at present, or to render its use in any case optional, or to omit the mis-termed damatory clauses, would be fraught with danger to the best interests of the Church."

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN HUNGARY.—A most important statement is telegraphed from Pesth. At a political conference, held at the house of Herr Deak on Thursday, Baron Eotvos, Minister of Education and Public Worship in the Hungarian Ministry, submitted the draft of a bill respecting the freedom of public worship. The bill provides that every one shall be allowed to practise the creed to which he belongs, that free religious communities may be established, that marriage is to be a civil contract, and that parents are to be allowed complete liberty of action in the education of their children.

PROTEST AGAINST RITUALISM IN LIVERPOOL.—A number of the attendants at Christ Church, Hunter-street, Liverpool, are indignant at the appointment of the Rev. W. R. Scott, whom they describe as "a Roman Catholic priest in disguise," to that church. Mr. Scott having declared in one of his sermons "that Protestantism had emptied heaven and filled hell," an indignation meeting was held in November last, and the bishop of the diocese was asked to remove him. Since that time other complaints have been made to the bishop respecting Mr. Scott's Ritualistic practices, but, although the bishop has written several letters on the subject, he has given no decided reply. A second meeting was therefore held on Thursday evening, at which resolutions were passed against Mr. Scott's appointment. The bishops generally came in for a share of blame in not having done their duty by suppressing Ritualistic practices, and it was threatened that if the bishop of the diocese sanctioned Mr. Scott's appointment, a town's demonstration should be got up against it.

SUFFRAGAN BISHOPS.—The following arrangements respecting suffragan bishops have received

the assent of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, after consultation with the Government, and after a full consideration of the subject by the bishops of both provinces:—"The formal title of the Bishops appointed under the Act 26 Henry VIII., cap. 14, is 'the Bishop Suffragan of The style of the aforesaid Bishops is 'Right Reverend,' they are formally addressed as 'Right Reverend Sir,' and they sign themselves with their Christian name and surname, with the addition of the title as above defined. The dignity of the aforesaid Bishops is such as belongs inherently to the order of Bishops; but, as the exercise of their office is warranted, restrained, and limited by the commission which they may hold from time to time, no place or precedence is formally assigned to them, save only when they are present for the performance of any official act by the appointment and on behalf of the bishop of the diocese. The authority of the aforesaid Bishop should be fully defined by the commission under which he acts, but no prescribed district should be specially assigned to him in his commission, the functions of the Suffragan having relation not to a part of the diocese, but to the whole diocese in which he holds his commission."

EARL RUSSELL ON THE RELIGIOUS QUESTION IN EDUCATION.—At the last annual meeting of the British and Foreign School Society, Earl Russell, the president, in his opening address said:—"We stand here for the support of that Christianity which should animate us all, leaving to the churches and chapels of the land to disseminate those views of Christian doctrine which they believe to be conformable with truth. (Hear, hear.) For my own part, it has happened to me, and lately, to consult the formularies of our various Churches, those of our own Church of England, of the Presbyterian Church, and of the Roman Catholic Church, but I find in none of them so good a sermon as the Sermon on the Mount. (Hear, hear.) I find in none of them so plain, and so wholesome, and so holy a creed as that which was given by Jesus Christ to His disciples, and to the world. (Cheers.) It is that doctrine which we have given in our British Schools. (Hear, hear.) The children read the Bible, and there they obtain the lessons—and not only the lessons—that Christ gave the multitudes in general; but the commands and directions which He gave to His disciples, the explanations He thought proper to give to His own apostles, are all open before us, when He said, 'Go, teach all the world.' The volume in which that lesson is contained is open to all the world if they will but read it. It is in this view, and on this principle, that we have continued for so many years."

THE PROSECUTION OF THE REV. C. VOYSEY.—The Rev. Charles Voysey, who was prosecuted at York on account of the opinions contained in his book, "The Sling and the Stone," has written to Mr. Shaen, his solicitor, declining to authorise him to continue any negotiations for his resignation. Mr. Shaen found that Mr. Voysey's resignation would not be accepted unless it were accompanied by a personal undertaking on his part not to accept any other preferment in the Church of England, and also by a substantial payment on account of the costs which have been incurred by the prosecutors. Mr. Voysey took counsel with some of his friends and the subscribers to his defence fund, and now writes:—"There is something in the very atmosphere of the ecclesiastical world which seems to me stifling and paralysing to all feeling of manly independence. Everywhere are indications of mutual distrust, and of a timidity which makes men who are otherwise high-principled and noble, adopt a course better suited to render their own paths pleasant than to uphold at all cost the interests of truth and liberty which are vital alike to individual and social integrity. I believe that my resignation, however qualified and explained it might be, would be regarded—and justly regarded—as another instance of the desertion of a cause and the abandonment of a principle, far more injurious to the world at large than any rupture which might be incited on the Church by the possible failure of my appeal. I conclude that it is best for the interest of truth and principle in this first place, and for the welfare of the Church of England as a national Church in the second place, that this battle should be fought out; I, meanwhile, being contented to suffer the inevitable annoyance and losses consequent upon delay, and the brave and true men among the Liberal clergy continuing to express their own convictions regardless of what defeat or triumph may be waiting for me. Were but half-a-dozen to do this, the chances of the success of the prosecution would be overwhelmed."

LORD SHAFTESBURY ON BIBLICAL REVISION.—The Earl of Shaftesbury has published in the *Times* a letter to a professor (whose name is not given) embodying his objections to the proposed revision of the Authorised Version. The noble earl holds that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to construct an impartial Commission. "The times of James I.," he says, "are very different from the times of Queen Victoria. The immense variety of opinion on doctrinal matters, and the immense diffusion of knowledge, both deep and superficial, in these days, would render necessary such a combination of members as would include the extremest forms of Ritualism, Socinianism, and Infidelity. Numerically, and as scholars, these professors would be very strong, and experience will not allow us to believe that these learned persons, after years of thought and study in the same groove, fixed and sincere in their peculiar opinions, would not entertain (unknown to themselves, no doubt) a decided bias towards special renderings of the sacred text. The issue might thus be either that through disagreement we should have no new version at all, and so have disturbed the

public mind for nothing, or that a translation would come forth in every respect inferior, made up of compromises and mutual concessions. Besides, let us suppose that the Commission are of one mind in their report, will the scholarship inside satisfy the scholarship outside? To say nothing of the contradictory renderings of the same passages which will be urged by men of profound learning, the swarms of readers and writers now-a-days who live on small criticism and cavil will show their wit by taking exceptions to everything, and in efforts to prevent any public confidence." If we once lose our present Authorised Version there is no hope that any other will ever possess equal authority. "The present version had no authority from Parliament or Orders in Council, nor even from Convocation. It derived, and it still holds, all its authority from admiration, affection, and universal acceptance. A new translation will enjoy little of this general favour, and certainly there would be but small obedience to any Royal, legislative, or episcopal decree."

Religious and Denominational News

THE CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE SOCIETY.

On Saturday afternoon a conference was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Robert-street, Adelphi, "to consider the best means of counteracting on a more widely extended scale the strenuous and systematic efforts of infidels in the metropolis and throughout the country, which are now assuming so alarming a character." The attendance was numerous and influential.

The Bishop of LONDON, who presided, said that on returning to the metropolis, after seventeen years' absence, he had been much struck with the systematic attitude which infidelity had assumed. Although, from his experience in a large parish adjoining, he knew that it prevailed to a large extent, that there were great numbers who never entered a place of worship, and who did not believe in Christianity, yet infidelity was not then aggressive. There were the Secularists, content with the negative creed that they should make the best of this world; there were the old-fashioned unbelievers, who, while they might endeavour to make converts, had no great influence; and there were infidel books read aloud in workshops—as when, for instance, tailors were busy on the board. But no encroachments were attempted in any appreciable degree. Now, however, sceptical opinions were making progress in the upper ranks, and as a matter of course had begun to permeate the lower grades of society. There was a large number of books and periodicals of a pernicious tendency, not only on the shelves of circulating libraries, but on the drawing-room tables of many families. German literature, too, had been brought prominently forward in England and adopted by some of the dignitaries of the Anglican Church; and all this told necessarily on the modes of thought of the humbler classes. He was not surprised that infidelity had armed itself with new weapons and was making a show of learning to which it had never pretended before. Its upholders were quite ready to bring all the objections and arguments forward which they thought rationalism had discovered in modern criticism and scientific speculation to subvert the Gospel. Their efforts had been partly met by Mr. Cowper, to whose zeal and energy devoted to the cause amid many difficulties and occasional violence he was glad to bear testimony. (Hear, hear.) The clergy of the metropolis had paid lecturers and other expenses, and they were quite ready to give their co-operation in carrying on the work. How was it to be accomplished? They were told that ministers ought to preach more frequently against infidelity from the pulpit—to expose and lay bare the errors so current in society and literature, and to make the evidences of Christianity offer the subject of discussion. Every minister knew best his own congregation and their needs. Most of them had to deal with mixed congregations—a very large proportion of whom never heard of these difficulties, were never troubled with them, and whose faith rested on the surest foundation. Consequently the preacher might suggest doubts which would never otherwise occur to his hearers. He questioned whether it were wise systematically to dwell either generally on infidelity or upon its particular errors. It was equally dangerous to state them fairly and meet them inadequately, or to state them unfairly in order to meet them satisfactorily. (Hear, hear.) Another suggestion was that our schools should teach the evidences of Christianity—a plan which must be modified by circumstances; but in the advanced classes he believed it might be pursued with advantage. Then there was the practice of meeting infidel lecturers on their own ground. They had their chapels under dry railway-arches and their cathedrals in music-halls. When engaging in disputation on most occasions the advocates of Christianity seldom failed to find hearers to take their part if they thought them unfairly pressed. If it were deemed advisable to supplement these endeavours, and employ more lecturers, the difficulty at once presented itself that the money could be got, but not the men. An advocate who defended his cause badly did more harm than good. (Hear, hear.) The opposition were unscrupulous, and they would trip him up whenever opportunity offered, so that a class of men trained for the purpose would be required—although no man, however well trained, could do good unless his heart was in his work. It was said that to convert unbelievers was to bring the Gospel home to their hearts, no man being brought to God by mere logic. While that was quite true, the sophistries of

Secularism must be cleared away before any good could be accomplished in the way of conversion, and therefore controversy did form part of the welfare of the Christian Church.

Major-General BURNBURN, hon. secretary, explained that fourteen months ago endeavours were made to provide Mr. Cowper with funds for paying the expenses of open air services, hiring halls, printing tract, and defraying travelling expenses in sending to places where efforts were being made by infidels who had a distinct organisation; and it was felt the friends of Christian truth should have the same. The Rationalists had a weekly newspaper in their interest; they collected money at their public meetings; and they had agents in the provinces. In the *Times* the other day, he saw announced five different places where infidel teaching was carried on, besides the meetings of Mr. Bradlaugh, the most dangerous of them all. He referred to the hire of a hall in Shoreditch by private liberality, where Mr. Cowper was about to begin a series of gratuitous lectures on subjects likely to attract infidels; but the chief object the committee had in view was the formation of classes for instruction in the evidences of Christianity, and he hoped this conference would be the inauguration of a movement that would be the means of doing much good. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. H. GLADSTONE, F.R.S., said he had a Bible-class every Sunday afternoon composed solely of the sons of gentlemen, with an average attendance of fifty, and he constantly met with scepticism in those young gentlemen, who had been brought up in rigid Churches where extreme doctrines, such as verbal inspiration, were dogmatically taught from the pulpit. The power of the reaction was very easily seen, because it was so strongly felt and manifested.

Mr. B. H. COWPER, having devoted his Sundays for the past seven years to this work, claimed support for the movement on political grounds, because the teachers of infidelity were equally the teachers of sedition; on moral grounds, because such teaching was subversive of morality; on educational grounds, because infidels revelled and wallowed in ignorance; and on religious grounds, because Mr. Bradlaugh and his associates stood in the way of the evangelisation of the working classes. When he first entered on the work he found his opponents loud, blasphemous, indecent, vulgar, and repulsive, Christians not being recognised by them as human beings, but treated with contempt and even violence. Now, however, he and his coadjutors were treated with respect. Mr. Bradlaugh's movement had not converted everybody. A clerk in a warehouse had told him (Mr. Cowper) that he had attended the whole course of Mr. Bradlaugh's lectures, and he felt more convinced than he ever did in his life of the truth of Christianity. (Hear, hear.) The great difficulties he had to encounter were the lubricity, slipperiness, and the dishonourable and untruthful character of the Secularists and Rationalists.

The Rev. JOHN GRITTON was sorry to add that there were too many of the working classes who looked upon religion with contempt, and thought the only true proof of manhood was to treat the Bible as a myth and a lie. The secularism of the day was merging into a deification of Tom Paine.

The Rev. Dr. JONSON and the Rev. J. P. CHOWN next addressed the meeting, the latter warning his clerical brethren against controversial meetings with the Secularists, as they only gave an adventitious importance to lectures which would otherwise be delivered to empty benches.

LORD HARROWBY moved, and Mr. ROBERT BAXTER seconded, a resolution that every effort should be made, by lectures, classes, tracts, publications, or otherwise, to counteract the spread of infidelity and to instruct the people in the Christian evidences.

Mr. EDWARD WHITE asked if the creed of the society was to be that of the Evangelical Alliance. If such men as Dean Alford were to be set aside as defenders of Christianity, he and others whom he knew would not care to be connected with the society. ("Question! question!")

The CHAIRMAN replied that the society consisted of all firm believers in Christianity, and surely under that banner they might be sufficiently united to undertake the proposed warfare against infidelity. (Applause.)

The resolution was then adopted.

On the motion of Mr. J. COLQUHOUN, seconded by Mr. CHARLEY, M.P., a large committee, comprising the representatives of the majority of the Evangelical churches, was appointed, and the conference closed.

The first of Mr. B. H. Cowper's lectures on the above subject was given at Shoreditch Town Hall on Sunday evening. W. Green, Esq., of Clapton, presided. A hymn was sung and a chapter of Scripture was read, after which the chairman made some effective remarks bearing on the topic of the lecture—"Why am I a Christian?" The lecture occupied sixty-five minutes, and was listened to with profound attention and unruffled order by a compact body of about 800 persons, mostly men. The singing of another hymn concluded the proceedings. The hall has been hired for a course, and the rent of it is to be paid by one gentleman who has been anxious that this experiment should be made for the working classes of East London.

Lord Radstock is on a preaching tour in France, and has frequently preached in the chapel in the Rue Royale.

Mr. George Colborne, M.A. (London), of the Western College, Plymouth, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the church and congregation assembling in the Broad-street Chapel, Reading, to

become their pastor, and will enter upon his duties on the 27th of this month.

The Rev. G. B. Thomas has intimated his intention of resigning the pastoral charge of the Baptist congregation worshipping at Blenheim Chapel, Leeds.

Mr. J. H. Stanley, of Airedale College, Bradford, has received and accepted a unanimous invitation from the Independent Church and congregation worshipping in Bethel Chapel, Wortley, near Leeds, to become their pastor.

Mr. A. F. Muir, M.A., of Edinburgh University and New College, London, has accepted a unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Congregational Church, Orange-street, Leicester-square, London; and commenced his ministry in that place on Sunday, the 6th inst.

The Rev. R. G. Harper, after occupying the position of pastor of the Kingsfield Congregational Church, Southampton, for upwards of two years, has resigned. His connection with the church ceases at the end of the present month, but it is understood that the rev. gentleman does not leave the town.

THE REV. NEWMAN HALL.—A letter from the Rev. Newman Hall, dated "Alexandria, February 19," was read in the Surrey Chapel on Sunday, in which he states that he is "already much better for the change."

BEDFORD CHAPEL.—In correction of the paragraph that appeared in our last number, we are requested to state that the artist who executed the beautiful bust of the Rev. Thomas Jones was Mr. Henry Stormouth Leifchild. Mr. Jones particularly thanked his friend for the great care and attention he had paid in executing the bust.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN INDIA.—On Thursday afternoon, Lord Napier of Magdala presided over a large meeting at the Cannon-street Station Hotel, held in support of the Christian Vernacular Education Society for India. His lordship, in a profatory address, after referring to the fact that his predecessors at similar gatherings had been Lord Lawrence, Sir Henry Rawlinson, and the late Sir Herbert Edwards, said he could lay no claim to having been selected on account of his exertions in the missionary cause of India, for it appeared to him that his life had been a series of express trains in the public service. This society, however, was founded in memory of the Indian mutiny. We sometimes heard that the mutiny should be forgotten. He trusted it never would, not for the sake of cherishing feelings of animosity, but to keep in mind those faults on our side which led to the mutiny, so as to avoid them in future. To do that education would be our best agent. No one could know India without being convinced that our supremacy was necessary to her peace, and in order to maintain it we should avoid rash experiments. He felt a deep interest for the country in which his life had been spent and his career won, and he had always endeavoured to teach the native that he and our Government were his friends. It would be better perhaps to teach him Christianity by imparting to him a knowledge of English, but with so many tongues and dialects to deal with that was an impossibility. He must be taught it through his own vernacular, and of this we might be assured, that no kind actions towards the natives of India ever failed to be returned with interest so soon as the opportunity offered. After addresses from General Lake, Mr. R. C. L. Bevan, Mr. Hugh M. Matheson, the Rev. J. H. Titcomb, and others, two resolutions were passed, affirming the society to be worthy of the support of all Christian educationists of the city of London, because it made the Bible the basis, and the native languages the medium, of its instruction, and because the heathen natives of India were daily becoming more accessible to Christian teaching, and superstition amongst them was everywhere giving away. The Bishop of London, the Lord Mayor, Mr. S. Morley, M.P., General Pierce, and several other distinguished personages, sent their regrets at being unable to attend.

Correspondence.

THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION BILL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to say, through your columns, how much surprised I am at the eulogies which have been passed upon Mr. Forster's Education Bill by many Dissenters. Surely they cannot have perceived what a subtle invasion the Bill is of all the principles for which the Nonconformists have done and suffered so much in the history of their country. So long as these extravagant eulogies are continued, the country will not wake up to the dangers with which this Bill covertly endangers the religious liberty of Nonconformists in thousands of villages in England. What is the use of extolling a Parliamentary measure to the skies, and objecting to it in the same breath? Any opposition to the Bill is neutralised by these praises, and I hope in this way the Dissenters will cease to stultify themselves.

Mr. Forster has, in my opinion, proved himself incompetent to deal with the question either as a measure of consistent policy on the part of the present Government, or as an exceptional effort to meet the special necessities of England. The present Government were placed in power on the definite issues of non-concurrent endowment and religious equality. But within one short year after the great Irish measure, Mr. Forster contradicts the Irish policy, and seeks to establish in England a new order of concurrent endowment, and a new style of religious inequality.

Mr. Forster says that after twelve months there shall be no more denominational schools, and so he ends all further extension of denominational schools. But he says that when the new schools are built it shall be decided by the majority to what denomination the schools shall belong. In all rural districts and vestries the majority will decide for the Episcopalian sect, and so the education of the majority of English villages will be in the hands of the Establishment. Thus Mr. Forster knocks down all denominations in order that he may set up the one denomination of the Church of England.

I wish to know whether Nonconformist ministers in the large towns, and the Nonconformist members of Parliament, are going to stand by while their brethren in nearly all the rural districts are handed over to the tender mercies of the parson and the squire?

No political ties will, I hope, induce any man to support the present Government at the price of freedom to worship God, and even those Nonconformists who do not wish to see the English Church disestablished will at any rate resist its re-endowment and re-establishment by educational means.

In my opinion the difficulties of this education controversy may upset more than one Government, and if we cannot have a satisfactory system of national education by any other means, I for one should hail the dissolution of Parliament and another general election. If the country is thus appealed to on the education question, I have very little doubt what the answer will be; but both parties in the House of Commons are probably too much afraid of the national answer to ask, at the hustings, if they can avoid it, what sort of national arrangements for education do you want?

I hope your readers will excuse me for writing to them, as your publication of this letter will be a great relief to my soul, burdened as it is with anxiety on account of the veiled and subtle manner with which Mr. Forster's Bill strikes a deadly blow at the conscience rights and the religious liberties of England.

Yours truly,

HENRY W. HOLLAND, Wesleyan Minister.
1, St. Peter's-road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—It is with much diffidence and reluctance that I offer any objection to a measure, the object and principles of which is admirable, and has been long called for; but there are parts of the Bill which I fear will be fraught with almost unmitigated evil. In country districts, to place the power and choice of religious teaching in the hands of local boards, is virtually to transfer it to the clergyman and squire, and at the same time to revive the worst features of the old Church-rate times. Quite sure I am that Dissenting parents, as a rule, will not, and dare not, object to religious teaching of which they disapprove; their homes and their labour are alike in the power of those who will not suffer a long-exercised authority to be questioned or controlled with impunity. This I have seen many times in our Church-rate contests, and have no wish to witness a repetition of the evil or of the feeling and spirit which it engenders.

Again, I think compulsory attendance must not be permissive, but imperative, or numbers of those most needing education will remain destitute of it.

For more than twenty years I have been a trustee of two large free schools for the poor in a country village, and the chief difficulty we find is to induce parents to send their children to school at all; or, if work can be obtained, to send them with that regularity which can alone insure progress. I know now one family (the type of many), the children of which have been clothed and their school pence paid, and yet the parents would not, and did not, send them more than a few weeks: thus they are voluntarily growing up in ignorance and vice.

My experience is, that a slight money payment even with the poor, causes them to attach a greater value to the school, and insures more regularity in attendance.

Practically, the religious education of the majority of schools is of little value, only will such be the case when the master himself is a pious man. Whether the State can accomplish more than a secular education I much doubt.

The Government Bill is now, however, fairly before the country to accept or amend, and for this purpose we must look mainly to patriotic members of the House of Commons and a free and enlightened press. With the heavy work Parliament has before it, might it not be wise to leave the Education Bill till next session, when public opinion would be more matured and advanced?

Yours truly,

THOMAS RATHBONE.
Hartshill, March 4, 1870.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Your leader in last week's paper clearly shows that, like Mr. Fawcett, the more you consider the Education Bill the less you like it. All parties seem waking up to the fact that a crisis is at hand; that the education of the young is about to be handed over more exclusively than ever into the hands of the clergy, or that now by a great and successful effort it is to be wrested from the hands of party and divested of sectarian bitterness.

Just as "religious equality in Ireland" was met by the cry of "No Popery," so the separation of secular from religious instruction will be met with the fiercer cry of

"No Infidelity." Cannot, then, such a petition to Parliament be drawn up as shall be gladly signed by every Sunday-school teacher in the land, appealing to have the children of our country entrusted to them for Biblical instruction and Christian training? If Mr. Forster and the Government, and the bishops too, are ignorant of the extent and value of Sunday-schools—and they appear to be so—it is high time our teachers spoke out and no longer allowed them to speak as if the whole current of moral training at present flowed from the Church Catechism as taught in some of our day-schools. The Bishop of Lincoln, in a discourse delivered in All Saints' Church, Stamford, last night, taken from the 2nd Colossians, 8th verse, "Beware, lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ"—foretold the sad and fatal consequences of a secular education, and in a burst of prelate eloquence inquired, "Of what crime have the poor of our country been guilty, that they should be thus banished as a gang of convicts to the penal settlement of Paganism?" In reply to this let a petition bearing the signature of every Sunday-school teacher demonstrate to the bishops, and to the Government too, that tens of thousands of earnest men and women are waiting to welcome and instruct these poor convicts, and then, under the blessing of Almighty God, the penal settlement shall become a fruitful land, and the wilderness blossom as the rose.

Surely there is a glorious future for the Sunday-school; let teachers now bestir themselves in time: let them consider whether under altered circumstances they cannot make their schools still more useful, either by opening them on one or more evenings of the week in addition to the Sunday, or by making them partake rather more of the school, with its lessons to learn and its rewards to merit, than is usual at present.

What must be done now is to convince Parliament that there is a volunteer army of servants anxious to devote their energies and abilities to training the young in that department of education which they believe they are better qualified to undertake than those who are to instruct them in geography, writing, and arithmetic.

Cannot the admirable organisation of the Sunday-school Union be made available for the purpose of a general teachers' petition?

I am, Sir, yours truly,

J. FRANCIS PEASGOOD.

Stamford, March 7th, 1870.

THE RELIGIOUS DIFFICULTY IN PRUSSIA AND ENGLAND.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

MY DEAR SIR,—You are aware that I have had considerable opportunities of observing the working of the Prussian national system of education. Will you allow me to lay before your readers one or two thoughts bearing on the subject that now occupies the attention of the country that have been brought to birth by Mr. Forster's Bill. As is well known to all who are acquainted with the Prussian schools, careful provision is made for the religious instruction of the pupils. This applies not only to the common schools, but also to the Commercial and Grammar Schools (*Real-Schulen* and *Gymnasien*). This instruction is given by Protestants or Roman Catholics, according as the pupils are Protestant or Catholic. The Liberal politicians of Germany, who are almost without exception Freethinkers, have for years been endeavouring to get religious instruction excluded from the ordinary school course; but in vain. Both the authorities and the clergy have hitherto resisted, and that successfully; their reasons being such as are advanced by the members and advocates of the Educational Union in this country. In view of the "religious difficulty," over which Mr. Forster thought he had so nicely "cantered," the question naturally suggests itself, With what results has religious instruction been given in Prussian schools? Has it laid a foundation on which the Church, through its public ordinances, has afterwards been able to raise the goodly edifice of a devout faith? As far as Protestants are concerned, the answer will differ considerably, according to the classes of the population which one has in view. In the agricultural districts the religious instruction has helped to keep the traditional beliefs in force; though here other, and especially general, Church influences have worked more fully than elsewhere. Where they have not been at work the mere instruction has had very little effect. In the towns, the influence of the religious instruction in schools, even after being supplemented by the instruction given prior to confirmation, has been very, very slight, in a positive direction. This, at all events, is the judgment to which one is driven by a consideration of the state of religion everywhere in Prussia, where the Church is not working efficiently in other ways. Faith scarcely could be at a lower ebb than it is in perhaps most parts of Germany. Scepticism of the most fundamental kind, relating to such questions as the being of God, the reality of a future life, and the existence of an absolute moral standard, is very widely diffused. Everybody, even the schoolboy, is familiar with the superficial objections to the Bible. To a large extent, this state of things has been produced by the schools themselves—at all events, such is my conviction. But now as to the Roman Catholics. In their case the instruction given seems to

have had more influence, i.e., more positive influence. At any rate, it has not had the negative influence to which I have just referred in connection with Protestants. That is, Roman Catholic children do not, when grown up, recede to anything like the extent from their Church to which Protestants do. Why? Because general ecclesiastical influences are more powerful. In the first place, the teachers are, for the most part, better looked after. They would not be allowed to inculcate heterodoxy; and, secondly, the Romish Church encompasses its members more fully round with safeguards against defection than Protestantism can.

Remembering these things, I have hitherto felt rather inclined to the retention of religious instruction. At which you may well ask, as I have actually been asked—But how can you be so blind to what your own observations teach you? The fact is, I reasoned thus:—If the churches are active, here then the instruction given in the schools will be an advantage, as Romish experience shows; and as they unquestionably are more active than in Germany, we have little to fear; nay, we have everything to hope. It strikes me, however, that there is another way of looking at the matter. The tendency of public men in this country at the present time is towards what is styled free thought; they are decidedly latitudinarian in their tastes and ideas. Mr. Forster, I believe, would never have hit on the scheme which he thought a solution of the religious difficulty, if he were not strongly tinged with latitudinarianism. Then again, latitudinarianism is exceedingly apt to be bigoted against positive orthodoxy—it is generous toward negations, ungenerous towards positions. Now, as I remarked before, a good part of the popular unbelief of Germany is due, I believe, to the instructors in religion in the schools. For generations they have been, at all events in the towns, among the most advanced rationalists; and they have used and do use, their position for the diffusion of what the Church calls unbelief. What is to hinder our getting instruction of the same sort in this country? So that on religious grounds I am disposed to plead for the exclusion of religion from the regular school plan of instruction. It is true, some may reply, but the teachers appointed here would in a general way scarcely be such as are appointed in Germany. I am not sure. When the authorities are "liberal" the inspectors are apt to be "liberal"; the heads of the training institutions are apt to be "liberal," and nothing is so infectious among men like common-school teachers, as "liberalism" in religion. And if once this kind of spirit has been introduced, it not only spreads with great rapidity, but protests against it are rebuked by cries of bigotry, narrowness, superstition, "Dark Ages," and other similar phrases. I fear that, as in Germany, if such liberalism should spread—and I repeat, it is spreading, and is one of the most likely things to spread among schoolmasters—by admitting religious instruction into our school system, we shall be exposing ourselves to the very danger we think to avoid.

All the recognition of religion I should, for my part, claim, would be the reading of a portion of the Bible, according to a settled lectionary, every day at the opening of the school. If the churches have not vitality enough to supply the religious needs of the community by more direct and voluntary methods, let them be swamped by unbelief, and let us look out for some system of belief which has more ability to discharge its functions in the great body politic.

Yours,
P. O. N.

THE BURIAL LAWS AMENDMENT BILL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—While Episcopalians have, apparently, not yet become aware of the existence of this Bill, its provisions have been keenly scrutinised by Nonconformists. It is also significant that, notwithstanding that it is the best Bill of the kind which has yet been prepared, it has been more roughly handled by some Nonconformist critics than the worst of its predecessors.

Some of the objections which have been urged against it go to the root, not only of this, but of all measures of a like kind. Thus it has been asserted that it is better to let the existing law remain, because "the removal of such grounds of complaint weakens us in our general efforts." Why, it is asked, "strengthen the hands of Churchmen, by removing anomalies which bring us the co-operation of men of the world in our movement for religious equality?"

That is an intelligible, but not, I venture to think, either a high-minded or a patriotic policy. At any rate, it is not the policy which Nonconformists have pursued during the last thirty years. If it had been, we should not have got rid of Church-rates, nor be now seeking to abolish University Tests. We have been patiently trying to obtain the redress of grievances, and the removal of our disabilities, and, so far from our hands have been thereby weakened, and those of our opponents strengthened, it is admitted that the prospects of the disestablishment cause were never so bright as now.

A second objection is, that the Bill acknowledges the ecclesiastical status of the parochial incumbent; any notice given to him being a recognition of his assumed superiority, and it is suggested that the management of the churchyard should be taken out of his hands. That would be an effective piece of churchyard reform, un-

doubtedly, but then, so far as the churchyard is concerned, it would be *disestablishment*, and this Bill does not profess to be a Disestablishment Bill. It may be confidently asserted that, so long as the Church remains established, Parliament will not disturb the incumbent, as the authority in whom the freehold is vested on behalf of the parish. Meanwhile, the Bill seeks to make the best of the existing position. At present, the incumbent is the legal chairman of the parish vestry, but—however undesirable may be such an arrangement—is every Dissenter bound to absent himself from vestry meetings, lest he should recognise "the ecclesiastical status and superiority of the State-appointed minister of religion?"

It is asked:—"Can any measure be conceived more calculated to expose the friends of deceased persons to numerous and painful annoyances than the forty-eight hours' notice of interment that must be given before a funeral can take place?" Forty-eight hours' notice may, in some cases, be too long a time, but where is the power of inflicting annoyance, unless it be in violation of the law? No leave to dispense with his services has to be asked of the incumbent. He is simply to be told that he will not be wanted, and that the funeral will take place at a given time, to be fixed by the parties themselves, and in only two cases can he interfere to prevent the carrying-out of their intentions. If before the notice has been received there happens to have been fixed either another funeral in the churchyard, or a service in the church, he can require some other time to be appointed, on the same day. But in most country parishes it is known when both funerals and services are to take place, and so it would seldom happen that the times would clash. In fact, I believe that in nineteen cases out of twenty the notice to the clergyman would become a mere form, which would neither be productive of inconvenience to the parties, nor afford to the incumbent the opportunity of annoying his Dissenting parishioners. Of course, a cleric bent on annoyance could make, if he did not find, such an opportunity; but no Bill could prevent that, until parochial clergymen cease to exist—for which time we have yet to wait.

Some other objections are based on local and exceptional facts only. Should this bill pass, it is asked—what is to become of the new cemeteries and of Dissenting graveyards, both of which would be at a disadvantage if the churchyards were thrown open as proposed? To these questions there are two answers. The first is, that in most of the parishes where there is a cemetery under the Burial Acts the churchyard is closed, and that it has been for that reason that the cemetery has been provided. It is also the fact that, for every parish where there is a Dissenting burial ground, not yet closed, there are scores without any. And for the few cases where there would be competition between the old churchyard and the new burial ground—of whatever kind—I submit that an odious restriction ought not to be maintained in the first, only that a greater amount of burial business may be done in the second.

To the suggestion that it would be better to provide free burial-grounds in every parish, and leave the churchyards alone, there is a short answer. It is an impracticable suggestion. Even if Dissenters wished it, there is no probability that Episcopalians in rural parishes would consent to be taxed to buy burial-grounds for Dissenters. And I doubt whether Dissenters would be willing themselves to incur the expense, so long as there is a churchyard in the parish, in which there is ample room for all the inhabitants. Equally impracticable is another suggestion which has reached me. "Let us assert our independence of the churchyard, as well as of the church." Unfortunately, we cannot do so. There are hundreds of parishes in which there is no other burial place within a distance of several miles, and distance means double fees and other increased expenses, to say nothing of personal feeling. If we were, as one correspondent tells me, on the point of getting rid of churchyards altogether, the Bill could not do either good or harm on a large scale; but our friends who live in towns must keep their eyes on the fact that, in the majority of country places, for generations to come, the churchyard will be the only place of sepulture.

Let me now take note of three objections which relate to details only, and two of which appear to have most strongly moved those who object to support the Bill in its present shape.

Clause 6 provides that "Nothing in this Act shall authorise the burial of any person in any place where previously to the passing of this Act such person would have had no right of interment," and some persons imagine that this would enable the clergy to refuse burial to the unbaptized, and so would render the Act, to a large extent, inoperative. This objection, however, is based on a misconception. The burial of unbaptized persons may be insisted upon now, though the use of the service may be denied; but, as it was thought that it might be objected that the Bill gave the right of burial to other persons than the inhabitants of a parish, this clause was inserted. It is simply intended to leave the law as to non-parochial persons as it is at present.

But it is Clause 7 which has most excited the astonishment of some, and the ire of other, of your correspondents. Why pay the clergyman a fee for a service which he does not perform? The clergy have no right to any such fees, and are not entitled to any

compensation for the loss of them, say some; and, add others, if they are so mercenary as to oppose the Bill without such a provision, the amount should be fixed, and only the existing clergy should receive the fees, none being given to the other parochial officials.

I admit that the present system, or no system, of burial fees in churchyards, needs to be thoroughly reformed. It is antiquated, often capricious and unreasonable, and, in not a few cases, extortionate and oppressive. But is it wise to touch that question in a measure framed for quite another purpose? So far as I can judge, it is only the fee for the performance of the service which is objected to. That, however, is the smallest portion of the burial fees received by the clergy, and to abolish that might soothe the feelings of Nonconformists, but would do but little to save their pockets. We shall have to deal with the pecuniary aspects of the churchyard question some day, and shall do it all the sooner for having established the principle embodied in Mr. Morgan's Bill; but, I repeat, is it wise to import the pecuniary element, as regards the vested interests of the clergy, into a discussion in which the extinction of an ecclesiastical monopoly on the one hand, and the removal of a civil disability on the other, is the object primarily aimed at. An affirmative reply may be given to that question, and much may be said on the affirmative side; but it is a question of expediency, rather than of principle, and one which, surely, may be discussed without anger or impetuosity.

The repair of the churchyards out of the poor rate has been strongly objected to by some, as being unjust in itself, and by others as being likely to be an occasion of contention. But why should those who will have the full benefit of the churchyard, equally with Episcopalians, cast the whole burden of maintaining it on their Episcopalian neighbours? So long as the two bodies are placed on an unequal footing in regard to the rights of ministers, and the use of services, the objection to share in the cost of such repairs is sound and reasonable. But will not Churchmen become the aggrieved parties if we destroy the Church character of the graveyards, and yet throw all the expenses on them? It will be urged, in reply, that, as the clergyman has all the fees, he should pay the cost; and that, if he is to be the freeholder, he should take the obligations, as well as the advantages, of the freehold. That is an excellent theoretical answer, but it involves such an alteration in the pecuniary position of the clergy as the Legislature is not likely to sanction in connection with such a Bill as that with which we are now dealing. As for the danger of a revival of the Church-rate warfare in connection with the proposal contained in the Bill, that depends on the spirit in which it is received on both sides. If Dissenters say beforehand that they require to use the churchyards without paying for them, or that they insist that the clergyman's fees shall be the only fund available for repairs, there is, of course, the likelihood that a new grievance will be created, in the redress of an old one. And if Churchmen share the feeling expressed by Mr. Hope, and have come to dislike the idea of taxation in connection with either church or churchyard, no Dissenter can wish to press upon them such a provision as that contained in the eighth clause of the Bill. But the insertion of the clause is an evidence of the fair spirit in which the measure has been framed, and will be likely to improve the position of its promoters in the discussion which will take place on the second reading.

I must not occupy more of your space by referring to some other suggestions, which are deserving of careful consideration in settling the details of the Bill, when it passes through Committee. Let me add only a general remark, in reply to those who say, Better wait until we can obtain exactly what we wish. Anti-State-Churchmen have been patient hitherto, and, I suppose, their patience is not exhausted yet; but let it be borne in mind what waiting means. It means the continuance for some years of a system which violates the best feelings of humanity—which inflicts pain on the already suffering—which is the occasion of scandals disgraceful to a civilised, to say nothing of a Christian, country. Does any one wish for a churchyard struggle as long-continued as that for Church-rate abolition? Surely not, and if not, it behoves us to deal with the question in a spirit of moderation and conciliation, which will strengthen us in dealing with this particular evil, while it will not weaken us, in seeking to accomplish an object of greater magnitude.

Your obedient servant,

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS.

2, Serjeants'-inn, Fleet-street,

March 8.

DISGUISED COMPULSORY CHURCH-RATES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I have recently received a demand for 1*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* for a "Church-rate" from the tax-collector, in a parish of which I am a ratepayer on the south side of the Thames. The paper on which the application is made is surmounted by the Royal Coat of Arms, and contains demands for Queen's taxes, and another rate besides; no distinction or explanation whatever is made with regard to the Church-rate, all the amounts alike being entered as "due" from me. The notice is, in fact, given exactly in the same form as formerly, when compulsory Church-rates were legal.

I cannot help stigmatising such a proceeding as this

as an attempt at imposition; it will, without doubt, entrap a large proportion of the ratepayers who are either ignorant of the present state of the law, or who take for granted their liability to pay the demands made upon them in this official and peremptory way as a matter of course.

It is clearly an omission in the "Compulsory Church-rate Abolition Act" that a provision was not inserted that all applications for Church-rates made after the passing of the Act should be printed on a special form, and that the voluntary nature of the imposition should be clearly stated.

I should not be surprised if this ruse to raise money is resorted to in many parishes besides the one to which I allude, especially in country districts; it will be well, therefore, for the friends of Voluntaryism everywhere to be on the alert and expose such attempts, wherever made, to destroy the value of that great victory for which they fought so long, and sacrificed so much.

Yours faithfully,

ALFRED H. HAGGIS.

Islington, March 7, 1870.

DEATH FROM VACCINATION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Parliament will, at no distant day, have to reconsider the question of vaccination, in view of proposals to modify or repeal the compulsory powers of the Act of 1867. I think, therefore, that Boards of Guardians ought not to issue summonses, or magistrates inflict penalties upon conscientious objectors. I have for some time been collecting facts to show the inutility and dangers of vaccination, and the injustice of penalties of a cumulative character. Will you kindly give publicity to the following sad case of death from vaccination, communicated to me by the Rev. W. N. Molesworth, M.A., Vicar of Spotland, Rochdale?

HENRY PITMAN.

Manchester.

Spotland Vicarage, Rochdale,

Feb. 23, 1870.

My Dear Mr. Pitman,—As I know that you are agitating for the repeal of the Vaccination Act, I send you a fact respecting its working which came under my own observation. One of my parishioners, of the name of Stott, who lives near my house, had a child which, at the time of its vaccination, was in perfect health. In about twenty-four hours after vaccination, the arm began to swell and exhibit symptoms of inflammation. The father at once applied to the medical man, who told him to wash the arm with cream, and apply a poultice. Notwithstanding these remedies, which were at once employed, the part of the arm which had been vaccinated turned black, and the blackness extended down the back till the child died. There cannot be any doubt that the death was caused by vaccination. I am told that several cases have occurred in this neighbourhood, and they have produced a very strong feeling against the Act which compels people to have their children vaccinated in the face of such results.

I am, yours very sincerely,

WM. NASSAU MOLESWORTH.

BETHNAL-GREEN RAGGED SCHOOL AND GOSPEL MISSION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In your very sympathetic notice of our second anniversary in your last week's issue, you have omitted the locality of our mission, which I beg to supply, as otherwise friends desirous of assisting our cause might march in vain through the extensive parish of Bethnal-green. The school is at 42 and 43, Old Castle-street, behind Shoreditch Church. The gentlemen named as trustees have offered to act as such, not for the completion, but on the completion of the purchase. As a guarantee of good faith with the Christian public, may I be permitted to add, I shall thankfully receive promises of support by annual subscription from your readers, or to supply collecting cards or boxes to those who are willing to help in that way. One gentleman has promised to collect 1,000 shillings during the year. Will any of your readers do likewise? To members of Evangelical churches in the neighbourhood who are not actively working in the Redeemer's cause, I would add, we can find ample work for at least fifty intelligent Christian young men and women in connection with our mission.

I remain, Sir (on behalf of the Committee)

Yours truly,

WILLIAM JARVIS,

Hon. Sec. and Superintendent.

2, Derby-road, Victoria-park-road, N.E.

THE EARL OF DUDLEY'S OFFER.—A numerously-attended county meeting was held at Worcester on Saturday, when, upon the motion of Sir J. Pakington, M.P., seconded by the High Sheriff of Worcestershire, it was resolved to present a memorial to the dean and chapter of the cathedral, asking that body to decline the offer of 10,000*l.* made by Lord Dudley towards the restoration fund on the condition that the sacred edifice should no longer be used for the musical festivals of the three choirs.

ACTION AGAINST A PRIEST FOR AN ALTAR DENUNCIATION.—An action of an extraordinary character is at present at trial at the Limerick Assizes. The plaintiff is a cattle-dealer, named William Gleeson, and the defendant is the parish priest at Cahirculish, the Rev. Mr. Cooney. The action is to recover damages for an altar denunciation, in which the defendant is alleged to have called the plaintiff a liar and a bastard, and advised people to have nothing to do with him, as he would nail the Saviour to the cross. Damages are laid at 1,000*l.* It is a curious coincidence that two of the plaintiff's sons are members of the Catholic priesthood.—*Cork Herald.*

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

NATURALISATION BILL.

On Thursday the LORD CHANCELLOR, on the proposal to read this bill a second time, made an elaborate explanation of the present state of the law on the subject, and of the changes which, on the recommendation of the recent Royal Commission, it is proposed to make. After enlarging on the difficulty of distinguishing citizens from aliens, he showed that the grandchild of a British subject who settled abroad was in strictness amenable to English law, and that the doctrine of indelible allegiance was so anomalous that it had never in serious cases been enforced. It had, however, caused much embarrassment, especially between this country and the United States, and the bill consequently proposed that naturalisation in a foreign country should imply the renunciation of the original nationality, persons already naturalised being at liberty within two years to return to their former allegiance, and minors, if residing with their father, sharing his nationality. Naturalised foreigners, in the absence of treaties, would not be entitled to protection by this country in the event of their returning to their native land; but the few disqualifications which still rested on them would be removed, and, on the same principle of repealing disabilities which, as the Lord Chancellor urged, now served no useful purpose, aliens would be permitted to possess real property.

Lord DERBY, after referring to the part he had taken in concluding the protocol with Mr. Reverdy Johnson, pointed out that, in abandoning our legal rights over the large numbers of Englishmen settled in the United States, we yielded pretensions which could never be enforced, freed ourselves from an obligation to protect them which we could never discharge, and diminished the chances of a rupture between the two countries.

Lord CLARENDON gave a description of the proceedings of the Commissioners, and with regard to the principle favoured by a minority of them—that the son of an alien, though born in this country, should be likewise an alien—he showed that it involved the converse, in which case a large proportion of the population of the United States would be British subjects.

Lord WESTBURY contended that naturalisation should not be granted to a foreigner unless the laws of his native country gave him permission; and, while admitting the evils of double nationality, he doubted whether the bill would entirely remove them.

After some remarks from Lord STANHOPE, and from the LORD CHANCELLOR in reply, the bill was read a second time.

The Sunday Trading Bill was read a third time and passed, and their Lordships adjourned shortly after seven o'clock.

On Friday there was no public business of any interest before their Lordships.

On Monday the House was occupied from five to eight o'clock with a discussion on the New Zealand question. The debate was opened by the Earl of CARNARVON, who found a good deal of fault with some parts of the policy pursued by the present Administration, and asked that the 18th Regiment might be allowed to remain in New Zealand. To this request Earl GRANVILLE distinctly declined to accede; and at the same time he very fully vindicated the course which the Government had pursued in withdrawing the troops from the colony. The discussion was continued by Lord GREY and Lord LYTTLETON. A motion for the production of correspondence was agreed to, and the subject dropped.

The second reading of the Owen's College Extension Bill was postponed.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE intimated that he should not bring on his motion with regard to the state of Ireland before Friday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

EDINBURGH ANNUITY TAX BILL.

The House on Wednesday (which owing to its being Ash-Wednesday did not meet till two o'clock) was almost entirely occupied with the discussion of this bill, brought on for second reading by Mr. McLAREN. He explained that his object was to reduce by three the number of ministers connected with the Established Church of Scotland in the Old Town of Edinburgh, and thus save their stipends, amounting in the whole to 1,800*l.* per annum. As a reason for asking the House to assent to this measure, the hon. member stated that of 30,000 persons resident in the "Old Town" only 8,000 were members of the Established Church, and that when the bill had passed there would still be eight ministers for their religious instruction. The LORD ADVOCATE at once rose, and expressed his intention to oppose the motion unless the hon. gentleman was prepared to adjourn the debate until after the Government had brought in a measure of their own. He objected to the bill because it recognised the principle of disestablishment without compensation, and to this he could not assent. The Church of Scotland was not unwilling to settle the matter in a spirit of concession and conciliation, and if Mr. McLaren would only wait a few days, he would give a pledge to bring in such a measure as the majority of the House would be prepared to sanction. Mr. CHARLES DALRYMPLE, the member for Buteshire (who had put a notice on the paper to meet the bill with the usual amendment that it be read a second time that day six months), said he was willing to accept the compro-

mise foreshadowed by the Lord Advocate. He complained that English members had heretofore exhibited too much readiness to legislate on this subject without knowing the history of the case. Mr. MACPHEE (whose constituents contribute about 2,000*l.* a year to the tax) cautioned the Lord Advocate against dealing in a partial manner with the question, and warned him of the impolicy of half-measures. Mr. ANDERSON, one of the members for Glasgow, caused some amusement by the trenchant manner in which he attacked the bill, describing it as "a dishonest and unfair measure," the object of which was to enable the Provost and Corporation of Edinburgh to repudiate the solemn bond into which they had entered. Mr. CRAUFURD, on the other hand, supported the member for Edinburgh, and denounced the conduct of the Government as utterly unworthy of a Liberal Administration. He reminded the House that last year the bill was read a second time by a majority of nine; the then Lord Advocate (Mr. Moncreiff) walking out of the House to avoid voting against it. This brought up the HOME SECRETARY, who protested that the Government intended to act with perfect fairness in the matter, and with a sincere desire to effect a perfect settlement of what was now a chronic source of irritation and discontent. Mr. HADFIELD insisted that no compromise would meet the difficulty. Mr. McLAREN, finding the feeling on both sides of the House to be for adjourning the debate until the Government bill was laid on the table, then rose, and declaring that it was in vain for a private member to contend against pressure in front and pressure from behind, gave a reluctant assent to the adjournment of the debate for a fortnight.

RAILWAY FOOT-WARMERS.

The next business was Mr. PLIMSOLE's motion for the second reading of his bill for providing second and third class railway passengers with foot-warmers, a measure which he proposed and advocated on humanitarian grounds. The bill was opposed by Mr. DILLWYN, who contended that it would be the perpetration of an injustice on the railway companies, and observed that if a bill were passed the next thing would be to require the railways to supply their passengers with hot brandy-and-water, rugs, and extra clothing. The bill was also condemned by Mr. N. Grenville and Mr. S. Hill, and on a division rejected by 108 to 76.

Mr. Cave's Life Assurance Companies Bill got into committee, and the two first clauses were agreed to. Almost immediately afterwards the House adjourned at five o'clock.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

On Thursday Mr. LEVEYNE informed Mr. Charles Reed that the Board of Trade is negotiating with the metropolitan railways upon the subject of running workmen's trains at convenient hours and at cheap fares six days a week, and that he hoped these communications will render unnecessary any more stringent action. Mr. OTWAY gave Mr. Rylands the almost equally welcome intelligence that on the 30th November next the system of Foreign Office agencies will be absolutely and peremptorily abolished. Mr. GLADSTONE altogether declined to be seduced by Mr. Staurope into any renewed inquiry into the condition of the Irish political prisoners, and occasioned much merriment by informing the House that when Mrs. O'Donovan Rossa visited her husband the other day she was able to congratulate him upon the improvement of his appearance.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE CHURCH.

Mr. H. SAMUELSON asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention had been called to the clause in the new statutes for the public schools of Shrewsbury, Winchester, Harrow, Charterhouse, and Rugby, requiring membership of the Church of England as a condition of eligibility of members of the governing body; and whether it was his intention to advise that those statutes, as they now stood, should be sanctioned.

Mr. GLADSTONE said that the statutes to which his hon. friend referred had been only laid on the table a few days since, and as forty days must elapse before they could be finally adopted, the matter was not very urgent. He was bound to express his opinion, however, that the commissioners who had framed those statutes had acted strictly in the spirit of the Act of Parliament which contemplated that the governing bodies of our schools should belong to the Church of England. There was no inference that narrowness of mind had led to this decision; on the contrary, he believed that the commissioners had acted in perfect good faith, and in what they conceived to be the proper interpretation of the Act; this much, however, he must say, that there was no reason that the verdict of Parliament should not be taken on the expediency of those statutes. (Hear, hear.) If his hon. friend gave notice for a motion, he saw no reason why the statutes should not come under discussion.

ABOLITION OF RELIGIOUS TESTS.

Mr. FAWCETT asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he was now able to fix the day for the introduction of the measure promised by the Government for the abolition of religious tests in the Universities and College of Oxford and Cambridge.

Mr. GLADSTONE thought there would be no advantage in introducing a bill of that kind until they saw their way to the future and more important stages. He should, therefore, decline fixing any particular day until the Land and Education Bills had made some progress.

Mr. FAWCETT asked would the right hon. gentleman promise the introduction of the bill before Easter.

Mr. GLADSTONE did not see what advantage would be gained unless the second reading could also be proceeded with.

CRIME IN IRELAND.

Mr. GLADSTONE, questioned by Mr. Bentinck and Lord J. Manners as to his views on the condition of Ireland, repeated in substance his answer of a former evening, that the Government do not intend at present to introduce any extraordinary measure for the protection of life and property, though they will not shrink from doing so whenever they think the state of the country requires it.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

The other gentlemen who had preliminary motions on the paper having withdrawn them in deference to an appeal from Mr. Gladstone, the House went into Committee of Supply.

Mr. CARDWELL then moved the Army Estimates, which, he said, were founded on the policy he laid down last year, that in time of peace our military power should be maintained in such a position as to be capable of easy extension, and with reserves close at hand readily available for a sudden emergency. The total charge they imposed on the country was 19,675,000*l.*, a decrease of 1,136,900*l.* on last year; or, taking into view the effective services alone, a decrease of 1,183,500*l.* This great economy he asserted had been gained without any sacrifice of efficiency. In arguing this point he pointed out that our undue expenditure on the military service had arisen from three great causes—our great colonial garrisons, the relations of our military finance with India, and the absence of proper control over the supplies,—and he went on to describe in detail the policy of the War Office under these three heads. Our military expenditure on the colonies had been reduced from 3,388,000*l.* in 1868-9, and 2,589,000*l.* in 1869-70, to 1,905,000*l.*; and, excluding such stations as Malta and Gibraltar, which must be considered Imperial garrisons, the strictly colonial expenditure had been reduced from 1,838,000*l.* to 674,000*l.*, and the number of men from 49,000 to 20,941. In addition to this, the Canadian Rifle Regiment, the Cape Mounted Rifles, and the 3rd West India Regiment had been disbanded, amounting to 2,530. Owing to financial causes there had also been a reduction in the Indian establishment. Then arose the question whether the British taxpayer should have the benefit of these reductions by a corresponding reduction of the force at home, and in the decision of this question four considerations had to be kept in view—whether the force at home was adequate, whether its distribution and organisation were such as to make it capable of easy extension, whether we had reliable reserves, and, lastly, the manner in which the reduction was to be made. Considering that we had 86,225 men of the Regular Army at home, distributed in 105 batteries of Artillery, 16 regiments of Cavalry, and 68 battalions of Infantry, and that the Reserve Forces added to these, gave us an army of 109,225 available for foreign war, the Government had concluded that it was their bounden duty to give the country the benefit of the reductions. Mr. Cardwell then went on to explain minutely the mode in which the reductions of the home establishment are to be carried out, by the reduction of the number of companies in each infantry regiment from 12 to 10, and of troops in a cavalry regiment from 8 to 7, the abolition of second majors, the abolition of depot battalions, and certain alterations in the Artillery depôts. A prominent feature in the scheme was a reduction in the number of subalterns; and in connection with this he explained a complicated plan for the gradual absorption of these officers, and the abolition of the rank of ensign and cornet, which, he showed, involved a first step towards the abolition of the purchase system. Passing next to the Reserve Forces, he announced that in future, though the enlistment for the regular army would still continue to be for twelve years, the service in regiments going abroad would be for six years, with the possibility of reducing the term at home to three years. The remaining six years' service would be in the Reserve, the men being liable to be called out like the Naval Reserve, and receiving a retaining pay of 4*d.* per day. This plan for creating a Reserve Mr. Cardwell only put forward as an experiment, acknowledging that many great military authorities did not expect it to succeed; but he hoped that it would attract new classes into our military service, and would efface the broad line of demarcation between the army and the civil population. He passed next rapidly over the changes made in the Estimates with regard to the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers, all of which are of minor importance; and as the general sum of the whole, he stated that our disposable forces for the current year would amount to 376,602,—viz., Regulars, 109,225; Second Army of Reserve, 20,000; Militia Reserve, 63,600; Yeomanry, 15,300; Volunteers, 168,477. This force, too, would be made more disposable by the division of the country into great military districts, in which the Regulars and the Reserves of every kind would be included in the same organisation. Next Mr. Cardwell referred to the introduction of the new Control Department, of the success and increasing efficiency of which he spoke in confident terms; its economy proving itself by the fact that there had been a reduction of 179 officers and a saving of 45,000*l.* in salaries. Finally, he touched on the contemplated reconstruction of the War Department, the improvements in military education, the changes as to military prisons, and the steps taken to instruct the troops in spade drill, in telegraphing, and in various handicrafts, and concluded

by expressing a confident belief that the Estimates, if accepted by the House, would place the country in a perfectly safe and honourable position.

Sir J. PAKINGTON, while approving the general spirit, criticised severely the proposed reduction of the Army, pointing out that the present Government in fifteen months had weakened the defensive power of the country by 24,000 men. He dissented altogether from the policy of denuding the colonies of British troops, and of concentrating so large a force at home. The reduction, too, of the Indian establishment did not meet his approval, since, when the present financial cloud had passed away, the troops might be required again; and he pointed out that short terms of service would add to the expense of bringing men home from India and the colonies. He approved the new military divisions, and the reduction in the number of officers, but deprecated a reduction of the Militia.

The usual desultory discussion, ranging over the whole of the numerous topics covered by the Estimates, was prolonged until just past midnight. After a brief reply from Mr. CARDWELL, the first votes—the number of men (115,037) and the sum necessary for their pay and allowances (4,771,900*l.*)—were agreed to.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer brought in his promised Indemnity Bill to redress the hardships caused by the recent decision in "*Boulton v. the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue*." The indemnity will cover all the cases, without distinction of time, and further reduces the 3*s.* stamp to 10*s.*

The House adjourned at twenty minutes past twelve o'clock.

On Friday the LORD ADVOCATE promised Mr. Miller that a bill should be brought in this session making the Habitual Criminals Act applicable to Scotland.

In reply to Mr. Roden, Mr. G. DUFF stated that the Indian Government was using all due diligence in the completion of the Indian system of railways. The great line from Lahore to Peshawur was in course of construction, and several others had been commenced.

Mr. CAMPBELL asked whether it was intended that under the Elementary Education Bill all classes of the community should be free to participate in the school system proposed to be based upon payment of rates, school fees, and Government grants. Mr. FORSTER said the question was too important to be answered at present. He believed the question referred to the fourth section of the revised code. Should the bill become law, it would be necessary to consider the revision of the code.

HABITUAL DRUNKARDS.

The first subject discussed upon the motion for going into Committee of Supply was the proper treatment of habitual drunkards. The question was raised by Mr. DONALD DALRYMPLE, a retired physician and member for Bath, who recommended that magistrates should be empowered to commit habitual drunkards either to the reformatory wards of workhouses, or to reformatories to be established for the purpose, where they should be detained until the medical officer in charge should certify that their disease—for Mr. Dalrymple founded his proposal upon the assumption that habitual intoxication is a disease, and a curable disease—was so completely cured as to avoid all danger of a relapse. The proposal was supported by Mr. MILLER, who said that it had been received with favour by the physicians of Edinburgh, and Mr. MCCARTHY DOWNING; but Mr. BRUCE, while acknowledging the excellence of the object which the member for Bath had in view, expressed his fear that the difficulties of detail which would stand in the way of its attainment would be found insuperable. He recommended Mr. Dalrymple to withdraw his resolution, and try his hand at a bill; and this suggestion was at once adopted by the hon. gentleman to whom it was addressed.

THE MALT DUTIES.

Colonel BARTLELOT called attention to the Report of the Malt Tax Committee of 1867-8, and moved a resolution in favour of the transference of the duty from malt to beer by the imposition of a license duty on public and private brewers. He argued the question under four heads—its relation to the producer, the consumer, the brewer, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. With regard to the first, the producers had honestly carried out free trade, and he admitted they were looking for their share of Mr. Lowe's surplus. Their case against the tax was that it interfered with the free cultivation of the land by discouraging the growing of second-rate barley, by disturbing the natural rotation of crops, and also by prohibiting the use of barley for feeding cattle, and thus preventing the production of cheap meat. As to the consumers, it debarred them from a supply of cheaper and better beer, and the new License Duty, while it would not embarrass the brewers in their operations, would give the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with less trouble, quite as large a revenue as he drew from the raw material.

Mr. C. S. READ, in seconding the motion, dwelt on the hindrance to the cultivation of the soil and the encouragement to the adulteration of beer caused by the tax. He held that it ought to fall as closely as possible on the consumer, and a licence on brewers, whether public or private, could be easily collected, and would produce quite as large a revenue as the malt tax.

Mr. DENT pointed out the difficulty of dealing with a tax which was not only large itself, but was bound up with the spirit and the wine duties.

Mr. DODSON objected to the malt tax that it was not only a duty on drink, but indirectly on beef and mutton, and that without any benefit to the revenue. He suggested to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in its stead a direct tax on beer, as was already levied

in Holland, Belgium, Hanover, and other parts of Germany.

Mr. FIELDEN's chief reason for supporting the repeal of the tax, which he urged at some length, was that it would encourage the practice of cottage-brewing (an operation which he described in detail as practised in his own part of the country), and thus would do more to make people sober than all the associations in the world. He supported Colonel Barttelot's suggestion for a License Duty on Brewers (except as to private brewers), and taking Mr. Allsopp's evidence before the committee as his basis, he estimated that if the tax were so dealt with, good beer might be sold over the counter at 2*d.* per quart.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in the course of a very brief speech, congratulated the House on the temperate character of the discussion, so different from ordinary malt tax debates. Agreeing with many of the arguments against the tax, he admitted that as a general rule levying duties at so early a stage was wasteful and extravagant, but it was easier and more convenient to collect the tax from 9,000 maltsters than from 33,000 brewers. He discussed the various suggestions offered in the course of the debate; and, with regard to Colonel Barttelot's licence duty on brewers (which, by the way would extract some 200,000*l.* from Mr. Bass alone), as it was novel he promised to give it a fair consideration. He would either accept it or give very good reason to the contrary when he opened the Budget.

Mr. Bass was strongly in favour of the reduction of the tax, but thought its abolition impossible unless the spirit duties (and the two put together made up 22,000,000*l.*) were also dealt with. He ridiculed Mr. Fielden's "cottage-brewing," and complained bitterly of the present licence duties on brewers.

The resolution was then eventually withdrawn, Colonel BARTTELOT professing himself satisfied with Mr. Lowe's assurance.

After this the House went into Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates, when the following votes were agreed to:—968,857*l.* victualling and clothing; 68,794*l.* scientific branches; 878,352*l.* dockyards and naval yards. On this last vote there was a long discussion. Mr. Samuda, Mr. Mundella, Mr. Fothergill, Mr. Graves, and others, urged the policy of employing private yards as much as possible, and the general expediency of manufacturing nothing which could be bought in the open market, Mr. RODEN going so far as to recommend the entire closing of the dockyards. Some sharp censures from Mr. LEWIS drew from Mr. CHILDELS a further justification of the discharges from Devonport Dockyard.

ANNUITY-TAX ABOLITION (EDINBURGH AND MONTROSE, &c.), ACT (1860) AMENDMENT.

The LORD ADVOCATE, in asking leave to introduce a bill upon this subject, said its main object was to effect a settlement of the question with regard to the Annuity-tax in Edinburgh, and to provide for the ministers of the parishes within that city, and he trusted that settlement would be satisfactory to the ministers and equitable towards the citizens of Edinburgh. At this moment the matter stood upon this footing:—Under the Act of 1860, the magistrates and town council of that city were bound by their perpetual bond to pay the sum of 4,200*l.* to the Edinburgh Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the purpose of paying the stipends of the clergy. There was a further sum of 2,000*l.* per annum payable by the Commissioners of Docks and Harbours at Leith to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, to be applied in the same way; and the pew-rents of the churches in the city were also handed over to those Commissioners. The object of the present bill was to empower the magistrates and town council to redeem the perpetual bond under which they were bound to pay the 4,200*l.* per annum to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners upon the payment of 60,000*l.* to those Commissioners. The magistrates and town council had in their hands at present the sum of 15,000*l.* or 16,000*l.*, which was applicable to the payment of the capital sum of 60,000*l.*; and, therefore, he only proposed to give them borrowing powers to the extent of 45,000*l.* It was proposed to allow the magistrates and town council to continue an increased assessment of 3*d.* in the pound for the next ten years, in order to pay off the debt contracted by the exercise of the borrowing powers under that bill. There was a provision in the bill requiring the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to invest the 60,000*l.*, and to pay the interest of it to the ministers. The bill was nominally a permissive one; but it contained the strong inducement to the magistrates and town council to act under it, inasmuch as by doing so they would save 1,800*l.* per annum. The parish of Canongate stood on a different footing from the other parishes of Edinburgh, an assessment of 1*d.* in the pound being raised for the purpose of giving 250*l.* per annum to the minister. Under the present bill that parish would be put on the same footing as the other parishes of Edinburgh, and the minister would be paid out of the funds in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. One-half the sum collected at the church doors would also be handed over to those Commissioners and applied to a similar purpose. The patronage of the churches—at present vested in the magistrates and town council—would be transferred to the male communicants of the several churches. Those were the provisions of the bill he asked leave to bring in, and which he had the fervent hope would be satisfactory to the Church and beneficial to the city, and prove a permanent settlement of that vexed question.

Leave having been given, the bill was brought in and read a first time.

Leave was given to Mr. STANSFELD to bring in a bill to make provision for the assessment of income-tax, and to amend the law relating to inland revenue. The bill was read a first time.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to one o'clock.

On Monday there was a fair attendance of hon. members at prayers, but there were very few persons present in the galleries allotted to the Peers, ambassadors, and other distinguished persons. Prince Christian and the Marquis of Clanricarde for a considerable time were the only occupants of the gallery over the clock, which at no period was at all crowded.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

In reply to questions put to him with reference to the antecedents and conduct of Mr. W. H. Cooke, Q.C., Judge of the County Court of Norwich, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL said: It appeared that although Mr. Cooke was reported to the House for having been guilty of bribery at Beverley, it is doubtful whether he is disqualified for holding judicial office; and that when he committed the foreman of a jury to prison for five days, the jury had been discharged, and the person committed had made use of offensive expressions to the Judge. The sentence was, upon his apologising, immediately remitted. A memorial had been presented to the Lord Chancellor, and it was still under his consideration.

In reply to Mr. Staurope, Captain VIVIAN stated, in the absence of any sanitary grounds, that soldiers who were allowed to wear beards in India would have, on returning to England, to conform to the Queen's regulations.

Mr. CARDWELL promised on Monday next, to make a further statement as to the details of the Government plan for reducing the number of officers in the army.

Mr. GLADSTONE, being again pressed by Lord John Manners as to the measures which he intends to propose for the better security of life in Ireland, intimated that as soon as the debate upon the second reading of the Land Bill was closed, he would state the views of the Ministry upon the condition of Ireland.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

Mr. GLADSTONE having without comment moved the second reading of this bill,

Mr. BRYAN, who was received with a faint cheer from a few members below the gangway, rose to move that the bill be read a second time that day six months. The style of oratory cultivated by the member for the county of Kilkenny is ineffective almost to feebleness; but it was not long before he elicited from the House some very emphatic expressions of dissent by the declaration that in the course he was taking he represented the feelings of the Irish people. Almost the only cheer which he gained throughout his comparatively brief remarks, proceeded from the Conservative benches in acknowledgment of his statement that in many parts of Ireland there is no safety for life or limb. With this exception he was allowed, almost without any expression of opinion, to condemn the bill because it does not establish the same law for all parts of Ireland, and to argue that no scale of damages could hinder capricious evictions, and that the right of distress ought to be abolished. The time, according to him, has passed when the Irish land question can be settled by a thirty-one years' lease; and he expressed a confident anticipation that though he and his friends may be in a miserable minority at this stage of the bill, they will, unless it is most materially altered in committee, be joined upon the third reading by many of those who now differ from them as to the course which ought to be pursued.

Captain WHITE, who seconded the amendment, commenced in a frank and soldier-like fashion, which at once gained him the ear of the House, and the attention thus secured he retained to the end of his speech. The gallant member for Tipperary is of opinion that nothing will satisfy the Irish people except security of tenure at fixed rents, and as the bill before the House could not in Committee be so altered as to attain that object, he thought it idle to spend time upon the consideration of its details. Captain White raised a laugh by suggesting that, although Mr. Disraeli had declared that fixity of tenure meant transferring the property of one man to another, the history of his career rendered it neither impossible nor improbable that the right hon. gentleman might himself introduce a measure for its establishment; and provoked some merriment at his own expense by referring to the "unanimous"—he almost immediately substituted the word "uniform"—support which he had hitherto given to the present Government.

Mr. O'REILLY DEASE, who addressed the House in an entirely novel manner, as calm and unimpassioned as his style has usually been excited and exaggerated, did not profess to be satisfied with all the details of the bill; but recognising the determination of members on both sides of the House "to look the unclean thing in the face," and the possibility of improving the bill in committee, he was willing to support the second reading. A similarly qualified, but more grudging support was offered to the measure from the other side of the House by Sir H. BRUCE; while Mr. BAGWELL expressed his doubt that this bill would prove as unsatisfactory to the people of Ireland as had the Church Act of last year. Quoting the expression of a Roman Catholic priest that the measure had been drawn by the devil's attorney, he described it as an attorney's measure; and announced that if it was not materially altered in Committee he should vote against the third reading. Sir F. HEYGATE did not welcome the bill with any cordiality, but he declined to take the responsibility of opposing it, and promised to assist the

Government in making it such a measure as should improve the condition of Ireland, and increase the prosperity of the country. And Mr. AGAR-ELLIS, although disapproving of some of its provisions, declared that the principles recognised by the bill were so important, and likely to prove so beneficial, that rather than the measure should be endangered, he would vote for it in block. Mr. KAVANAGH addressed to the House upon this subject the longest and most important speech which he has delivered during the four years that he has sat in Parliament. He very frankly admitted the existence of the evils which the bill is intended to cure, and fully recognised the justice of imposing penalties to deter landlords from unnecessary evictions, and of securing for an evicted tenant compensation for any improvements which he might have made upon the land. At the same time he questioned the propriety of many of the clauses of the bill, and "in the hope that it might be made a good measure," he explained at length, but in a practical and business-like manner, the points to which he objected, and the ground of his objections. Mr. PIM was sanguine that with a few alterations, the bill might be made satisfactory to all reasonable men, to all indeed whom it was worth while attempting to satisfy; and Mr. G. GREGORY confined his criticisms to matters of detail. In the hands of Mr. WHALLEY the Irish land question naturally became involved with the Roman Catholic hierarchy; but the most serious complaint which the member for Peterborough had to advance, appeared to be that Mr. Gladstone had described our government of Ireland as an opprobrium to the nation. Mr. BRODRICK had a good deal to say against the details of the measure, especially the provisions for encouraging the creation of small freeholds, and advancing public money to enable tenants to purchase their holdings; but, nevertheless, he admitted that upon the whole the measure was fairly conceived, and was not unfair in its principles.

Mr. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE (Chief Secretary for Ireland) claimed for the bill that, of all the land bills laid before the House, this was the simplest as far as its machinery was concerned. After reply to Sir F. Heygate's argument, drawn from the Parliamentary title of the purchaser in the Landed Estates Court, which he showed to have no foundation, he took an historical retrospect to show how rapidly public opinion had advanced, and how much more liberal was this bill than the most extreme measure ever introduced, even by the tenant farmers' representatives. He then went on to discuss the objections urged against the bill, and, beginning with the complaint that the Ulster custom had not been extended to the rest of the country, he asked how could a custom be created by an Act of Parliament? It was extremely doubtful, he maintained, whether it would be for the benefit either of landlord or tenant in the other provinces to extend to them the Ulster custom. But in legislating for the other parts of the country the two essential elements of the custom—security of tenure and compensation for improvements—had been kept in view. Tenants were placed in a position of security by a method going far beyond anything ever proposed before, and for the first time it gave him a right to compensation even if he had made no improvements. As to improvements, the tenant would be able to realise at any time what he had himself spent on the land, or what he had paid on entry. He gave further explanations of the leasing provisions and the operation of the proposed tribunals, and with regard to the second part of the bill, he believed it would place a fair number of occupiers in possession of land, and would strengthen the middle class of Ireland. Finally, he claimed for the bill that it had been framed after the most careful consideration of the facts and wants of Irish life, and he earnestly exhorted the representatives of landlords and tenants to combine for an immediate settlement.

Dr. BALL was of opinion that both the objections made to the bill and the credit claimed for it were exaggerated. Its political effects would be very small, but it erred grievously against sound economic principles, and violated well-known legal axioms. Having no great respect for the Ulster tenant right, he objected to its being made permanent by statute, and its infinite variety would make it almost impossible for the Courts to say what the custom was. Consequently he agreed with the bill in not extending the custom all over the country, which, indeed, would have been impossible. He agreed, too, with Section 3, though he did not believe there was any property in occupation; but the scale of compensation was too large; and he approved also of the provision as to improvements, with the single exception that there was no period fixed at which a tenant, by his enjoyment of an improvement, should be considered to have been paid for it. From the second part of the bill he did not expect much practical result—having no confidence in the permanency of small fee simple holdings—but he accepted it as a sort of compensation to the landlords who might not be able to arrange themselves to meet the new system; and, moreover, it would have a beneficial effect in introducing further variety into the class of landlords. The interference with the right of landlord and tenant to contract Dr. Ball strongly condemned, and he concluded his speech with an eloquent protest against the tendency of the bill to tie down the Irish to their own vicious land customs, and to prevent them rising to a level of the more perfect English system.

On the motion of Mr. MAGUIRE, the debate was adjourned until this evening.

The Tramways, the Stamp Duty on Leases, and

the Judges' Jurisdiction Bills were read a second time.

On the motion of Mr. BUXTON, leave was given to bring in the Municipal Boroughs (Metropolis) Bill; a bill for creating and regulating the county of London; and one for creating the Metropolitan Corporation of London.

The House adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE EDUCATION BILL.

Mr. Winterbotham, one of the members for Stroud, has given notice of several amendments on Clause 7 of Mr. Forster's Education Bill, which are understood to meet the approbation of members of the National League as well as of nearly all the Nonconformist members of the House of Commons. To facilitate a proper understanding of these amendments, we give side by side a copy of the clause as it stands in the bill, and of the clause as it would stand if the amendments should be accepted:—

ORIGINAL CLAUSE.

7. Every public elementary school within the meaning of this Act shall be subject to the following regulations, viz:—

(1.) The school shall be open at all times to the inspection of any of Her Majesty's inspectors, so, however, that no such inspector, except with the permission of the Education Department, and on the request of the managers of the school, shall inquire into the religious instruction given at such school, or examine any scholar therein in religious knowledge or in any religious subject or book:

(2.) The school shall be conducted in accordance with the conditions required to be fulfilled by an elementary school in order to obtain an annual Parliamentary grant:

(3.) No scholar shall be required, as a condition of being admitted into or of attending or of enjoying all the benefits of the school, to attend or to abstain from attending any Sunday-school, or any place of religious worship, or to learn any such catechism or religious formula or be present at any such lesson or instruction or observance as may have been objected to on religious grounds by the parent of the scholar sending his objection in writing to the managers or principal teacher of the school, or one of them.

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(3.) No scholar shall be required to attend or to abstain from attending any Sunday-school or any place of religious worship; (4.) No scholar shall be required to be present at any religious instruction or observance:

(5.) In any school where religious instruction is given or religious observances are practised such instruction and observance may take place before and after the other school business, but not at any intermediate time; a public notification of the times for religious instruction and religious observances must be inserted in a time table to be supplied by the Education Department, and to be permanently hung up in a conspicuous place in the schoolroom.

THE COUNTRY AND THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION BILL.

At the request of the Executive Committee of the Education League, Mr. Gladstone has consented to receive a deputation from the members of that body this day (Wednesday). The deputation will be representative of all the branches of the League, and will include a large number of members of Parliament and ministers of religion. Its object will be to explain the provisions of the Government bill which require alteration, in order to render the measure acceptable to the advocates of a national system of education. The funds of the League promised and realised amounted on the last day of February to upwards of 58,000*l.*, of which nearly 5,000*l.* was subscribed during the month.

At a conference of thirty members of Parliament on Friday, under the presidency of Mr. George Dixon, it was determined on behalf of the members of the Education League that when the Education Bill comes on, at later stages, the question of free schools shall not be pressed, but the following points shall be persisted in: The universality of school boards, absolute compulsion of attendance, separation of hours for religious teaching from hours for secular teaching, and the unsectarian character of new schools founded and supported by rates.

On Friday a special meeting of the Central Execu-

tive of the National Educational Union was held in London, to consider what course the Union should adopt with reference to the Elementary Education Bill of the Government. The Right Hon. W. F. Cowper Temple, M.P., occupied the chair, and among the gentlemen present were:—Lord Howard of Glossop, Viscount Sandon, M.P., Col. Akroyd, M.P., Mr. Baines, M.P., Mr. Hugh Birley, M.P., Mr. C. Buxton, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Barry, W. Stanier (general secretary), Dr. Rigg, &c. A report by the Executive Committee was presented and adopted, and resolutions were also agreed to. The resolutions are as follow:—

1. The bill of the Government deserves support inasmuch as it aims at supplying the needs of elementary education without prohibiting religious instruction, without superseding parental responsibility, and without extinguishing the schools which have been brought into existence by the costly and persevering labours of the best friends of the education of the people.

2. The Government scheme is defective in not adopting that indirect mode of compulsion which consists in requiring education as a condition of the hired employment of children, which has been successfully applied through the Factory Acts, and has been more recently adopted in the Workshops Regulation Act; and the scheme is objectionable in its reliance on direct compulsion, by means of penalties inflicted on parents for the non-attendance of their children between the ages of five and twelve.

3. Compulsory attendance at suitable schools may be rightly enforced on vagrant children, and on those whose parents are receiving parochial relief; and the local authorities, in districts where there are no School Boards, should be entrusted with the duty of giving effect to the provisions for such school attendance.

4. The bill, if amended in these particulars, and in some less important details, will be a satisfactory measure for extending and improving elementary education.

The following is an extract from the report of the Executive Committee:—"The Committee have under consideration whether some provision should not be added, in accordance with the programme of the Union, 'that in cases of compulsory rating, occupiers or owners of property in rated districts who contribute to existing authorised schools therein shall be exempted from such rate to the full extent of their contributions and no further.' The Committee are of opinion that the question as to the constitution of school boards should be well considered, as also the relaxation of conditions of grants for school building during the period of grace given by the bill."

At a meeting of the Manchester Education Bill Committee, held at the Town Hall, Manchester, on Thursday, an elaborate report on the bill was adopted and ordered to be printed. This report states that some resolutions were adopted with a view to the amendment of the bill (the substance of which is given below), and that they had been submitted to Mr. Forster, who, whilst admitting that the questions raised by these amendments were fair subjects for discussion in committee, pointed out that they were not altogether free from difficulty. The amendments finally settled in conference with Sir Thomas Bazley, Mr. Jacob Bright, and Mr. Herbert, have been placed on the notice paper of the House of Commons, as amendments to be moved in committee. Amongst these is one by Mr. Jacob, to Clause 14, page 5, line 17, after "board" insert "but no religious catechisms or formularies shall be used in any such school, nor shall anything in support of or in opposition to the peculiar tenets of any religious sect or denomination be taught therein; provided that nothing herein contained shall be held to exclude the reading of the Holy Scriptures in such school"; and after Clause 22, to insert the following clause:—

A school board may permit any school under its management and control to be used for religious instruction at the hours when the school is closed for the purposes of this Act, and on such conditions to secure perfect fairness towards each religious denomination as shall be sanctioned by the education department; provided that no teacher in any such school shall be allowed to give any such religious instruction, and no expense incurred in respect thereof shall be defrayed by the school board.

The effect of these amendments would be to make all new rate-provided schools undenominational, in conformity with resolution No. 3. They exclude sectarian teaching during ordinary school hours, but allow such schools, when not open for the purposes of the Act, to be used for special religious teaching, on terms of perfect fairness towards each religious denomination. Sir Thomas Bazley is to propose a series of regulations respecting attendance at school. These amendments substitute positive and obligatory regulations for the permissive by-laws on compulsory attendance in the Government bill. Except where children are subject to any Act for the regulation of labour, they require that every child shall attend school for at least thirty weeks annually, each week including at least seven attendances. They stipulate that no summons can be issued or applied for except after a visit has been made to the parents; but all reasonable excuses for absence may be taken into account. They prescribe maximum penalties of five shillings for a first offence, and twenty shillings thereafter, but they throw the cost of prosecutions on the school board.

A meeting of Welshmen has been held, in the Freemasons' Tavern, to consider the provisions of this bill as they affect the Principality. There were present, among others:—The Rev. D. Charles, B.A., Mr. Stephen Evans Gobebydd, Mr. Morgan Lloyd, Mr. Hugh Owen, Mr. A. Simner, Mr. R. G. Williams, &c. Mr. Hugh Owen proposed that the

phrase, "No book shall be used in the school for the purpose of religious instruction other than the Bible," should be added to the conscience clause (Clause 7), and that the following words should be omitted from it:—"No scholar shall be required to learn any such catechism or religious formulary, or be present at any such lesson, or instruction, or observance, as may have been objected to on religious grounds by the parent of the scholar, sending his objection, in writing, to the managers or principal teacher of the school." The clause, thus modified, was, after some discussion, adopted.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held on Monday night in the Town Hall, Birmingham, to consider the Government Education Bill, when the following resolution was passed by a large majority:—"That this meeting, while rejoicing that Her Majesty's Ministers have introduced into Parliament a bill to provide for public elementary education in England and Wales, regrets that the bill contains clauses which will create unnecessary delay in the establishment of schools, will leave some districts entirely without responsible school boards; will require payment of school fees from parents who have contributed to the rates; will not ensure compulsory attendance in districts where it is most required; and will give to school boards power to pay for theological teaching; this meeting believes that no system will deserve or receive the support of the country that does not make immediate provision for free, unsectarian compulsory education, supplemented by Government grants, under local representative management and Government inspection sufficient for the requirements of all children in the country." The Mayor presided. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, chairman of the Executive Committee of the League, moved the resolution, and said that the issue of the struggle following the adoption of the religious clauses of the Government Bill would be the disestablishment of the English Church. The Rev. R. W. Dale, President of the Congregational Union, seconded the resolution, and it was carried enthusiastically. On the motion of Mr. Jesse Collings, seconded by Mr. Radford, a working man, a petition was adopted embodying the views of the meeting, and the mayor was requested to accompany the deputation, which will present it to Mr. Gladstone this day (Wednesday).

The committee of the Surrey Congregational Union, at a special meeting held on Friday, adopted a series of resolutions relative to the religious aspects of Mr. Forster's Bill. Considering it to be the duty of the State to confine its interference with education to secular instruction, they expressed approval of the proposal to allow other than denominational schools to participate in the Parliamentary grant, and also of the intended abolition of denominational inspectorships. They, however, insisted that all inquiry into religious teaching by inspectors should cease. They condemned without qualification the permission to establish new denominational schools, which, it was contended, would create a system of concurrent endowment. The permissive character of the bill, in regard to religious teaching, would, it was urged, make the election and proceedings of school boards an occasion of sectarian contention, and compel ratepayers to support religious teaching and institutions to which they are opposed. No conscience clause, it was insisted, would be of any utility in the rural districts. It was also pointed out that the bill, if passed in its present shape, must, in justice, be followed by a similar measure for Ireland; and finally, it was asserted that the only solution of the religious difficulty was to separate religious teaching and observances from ordinary school business, all compulsion being forbidden. It was agreed to take steps to give effect to the committee's resolutions.

The meeting called by the Nonconformist ministers of Birmingham and neighbourhood to consider the Government Education Bill, was held in the Lecture Room attached to Carr's-lane Chapel, on Friday afternoon. The room was crowded with ministers and laymen, representing all the Nonconformist denominations. Mr. William Middlemore was elected chairman, and the following, among others, took part in the business of the meeting:—Messrs. R. W. Dale, George Dawson, Charles Vince, J. S. Wright, Joseph Chamberlain; the Revs. J. J. Brown, Crosskey, H. W. Holland, M. Macfie, G. B. Johnson, C. Clarke, B. Bird, &c. The utmost unanimity prevailed as to the objectionable character of the provisions of the Government bill on the religious question, and as to the necessity of combined and determined action on the part of Nonconformists in opposition thereto. Resolutions were passed, declaring the opinion of the meeting that the proposal to leave to local boards the power of deciding if any, and what, religious teaching shall be given in rate-aided schools, is one which will be oppressive to the consciences of minorities, and will be a Church-rate measure in another form, and that the proposal to allow Government inspectors to examine schools in religious matters is objectionable. It was further resolved—

That it is the opinion of the meeting that in all schools erected or supported by local rates, the teaching should be entirely unsectarian; and that in schools aided by Government the religious instruction, if any, should be given either before or after the ordinary school business, and so that no child should suffer in any way from not attending at the times when such religious teaching takes place.

A committee, consisting of upwards of twenty gentlemen, was appointed to take steps for eliciting the opinions of Nonconformists throughout the country on the subject. A subscription list was opened, and a large sum was promised in the meeting. The committee met after the general meeting broke up. Mr. Dale and Mr. Crosskey were appointed

honorary secretaries; and active proceedings were commenced for carrying out the objects in view.

A conference of Nonconformist ministers was held on Friday in Nottingham to consider the Government Education Bill. Strong resolutions in opposition to the bill were passed. It was resolved that the conscience clause was invidious, useless, illusory, and deceptive; and further, "That this conference of Nonconformist ministers of religion, in the name of religion and liberty, records its conviction that only such schools ought now to be created by the State as shall be strictly undenominational, and its hope that the bill now before Parliament shall be amended so as to secure this end, or that legislation on the subject be deferred."

On Monday night a conference on the Education Bill was held at Sunderland, and largely attended by Churchmen, Dissenters, Catholics, and others, representing different views on the education question. A report, presented from a committee, stated that the bill contained principles on which a satisfactory settlement of the question might be arrived at. It further proceeded to discuss the clauses, and suggested a variety of amendments, amongst which were, that educational boards should be chosen partly by the Boards of Guardians; and that, if there be direct compulsion, it ought to be more imperative on all boards to carry it out. The principal points were:—Shall clause 7 be so amended as to do away with the necessity of a conscience clause? Shall the principle of compulsion in a direct form remain part of the bill? and, if so, shall its application be left to the Government or to the local boards? An animated debate lasted for nearly three hours, principally on the question of religious education. No decision was come to on this point, or on compulsory education; but it was resolved that no religious inspection of schools should take place. It was also resolved to call a public meeting to decide on the question of religious teaching.

Mr. Whitley, at the meeting of the Liverpool Town Council on Thursday, said that, as a financial measure, the new Education Bill would seriously affect Liverpool. He looked upon it as a measure for transferring the cost of the general education of the country to the large towns. There was a constant immigration from the rural districts into large towns, and the schools which had been established for some years in these districts would be sufficient for the purpose. In the large towns there was a surplus population for whom occupation could not be provided. This was peculiarly the case in Liverpool, where pauperism also was a most grievous burden. Mr. Whitley did not think that the large towns should be called upon to educate that portion of the population which was in excess of the natural growth of the wants of the community. The first effect of the bill would be to raise a 3d. rate, which would press very heavily upon the large tradesmen. It would be found in practice that a 3d. rate was not sufficient for education, and the ratepayers would have to make up the deficiency probably to the extent of a 5d. rate. Again, many of the wealthiest inhabitants lived in the suburbs, which were supplied with schools through the liberality of the landlords, and thus these wealthy residents would really escape the educational tax. Mr. Whitley moved that the subject be referred to a special committee for consideration. Mr. P. H. Rathbone seconded the resolution, which was carried.

A Berkhamstead correspondent writes:—"In most British Schools the 'religious difficulty' in education is unknown, and no conscience clause is needed while the clergy and others see no satisfaction in any scheme for the furtherance of 'unsectarian education.' At Leighton Buzzard, on last Saturday, there was a meeting held in the British school in connection with the Beds, Bucks, and Herts Association of Elementary Teachers, at which Mr. Asbee, of Woburn, read a paper on the Government Education Bill, which was followed by a discussion. The teachers present represented both Church and Dissent, but all were agreed in regarding the proposal of Mr. Forster to introduce a conscience clause as in no way satisfactory, and heartily called it 'a sham.' If the Government should adopt the unsectarian education plan, which the British and Foreign School Society has always pursued, no conscience clause at all would be necessary. It was also unanimously agreed that attendance should be made compulsory by Imperial Parliament, instead of leaving it to the various School Boards. The religious difficulty was not experienced by them as teachers, but the clergy of the various denominations could not understand how masters could ignore denominational interpretations in the inculcation of Scriptural truth. The effacing, rather than the deepening, of the present discreditable religious antipathies, was considered to be of more importance than any theological teaching. A petition to Parliament embodying these points was agreed on."

A meeting was held on Thursday, at the Edinburgh Council Chambers, under the presidency of the Lord Provost, for the purpose of promoting the object of a memorial recently sent to Mr. Gladstone on the subject of national education in Scotland. Principal Sir A. Grant, Sheriff Moncrieff, the Rev. Sir H. W. Moncrieff, Professor Calderwood, and other well-known citizens, took part in the proceedings, and resolutions were adopted expressing regret that the Government should have delayed the settlement of the Scotch education question, and affirming, among other points, that there would be no difficulty in passing a bill similar to that of last year through both Houses in the present session, and that any bill to be brought in should adhere to the leading principles of that measure. A committee was appointed to convey the resolutions to members of Government

and Scotch members of Parliament, and generally to watch over the progress of the question.

A public meeting, not numerously attended, was held in Glasgow on Thursday night, to consider the education question. The Lord Provost presided, and the meeting was addressed by Professors Edward Caird and Young, of Glasgow University; the Rev. Dr. Burns, of the Established Church; the Rev. Dr. Walter Smith, of the Free Church; Mr. Applegarth, London, and others. The meeting unanimously resolved to form a branch of the National Education League in Glasgow, and to petition Parliament in favour of any education bill for Scotland containing the compulsory clause, being thoroughly unsectarian, securing management by representatives of the ratepayers, subject to Government inspection, and supported by local rates, supplemented by Government grants.

The English Roman Catholics have been enjoined from the altar to petition for amendments to the Government Education Bill, praying that the education to be given may not be opposed to the full development of Roman Catholic doctrine. Lord Howard of Glossop, the Duke of Norfolk, and Lord Petrie are to act as the representatives of the Roman Catholics.

Various meetings have been held to give a more or less warm support to the Government Bill. The Northampton Diocesan Church Association met on Monday, under the presidency of the Bishop of Peterborough, to consider the bill. The general feeling of the meeting was in favour of the acceptance of the bill, with some modifications in its details. The subject was also discussed at a conference of clergy and laity held at Bedford under the presidency of the Bishop of Ely, and a resolution passed approving of the bill as on the whole a fair settlement of the education question. The bishop in speaking upon the importance of religious education, said that if he had to choose between bringing up his own children under more secular influences or having them instructed by a Dissenting minister, he would incomparably sooner adopt the latter alternative. On Saturday, at a conference of the North Staffordshire Certificated Teachers' Association, a resolution was adopted in favour of direct compulsory education, enforced by the Central Government. A proposition that the adoption of undenominational education, as carried out by the British and Foreign School Society, would meet the religious difficulty far better than will a conscience clause, was negatived, and an amendment carried declaring it to be desirable to maintain the system of denominational teaching with a conscience clause. The Norfolk Chamber of Agriculture discussed the Government Education Bill on Saturday, but gave only a qualified approval to the measure. The compulsory system was generally objected to. At the same time a considerable amount of feeling was displayed in favour of secular education. At a rural-decanal chapter of the clergy of the Deanery of Dursley, Gloucestershire, the following resolution was passed:—"That we, without pledging ourselves to all the details, receive with satisfaction the measure proposed by Government with regard to the elementary education of the people, and we desire also to express our cheerful concurrence in such a full and fair conscience clause as would give to the managers and teachers of schools full liberty in giving such instruction, while it would allow to parents and guardians of children the liberty of withdrawing children from such instruction."

A Coventry correspondent writes:—"The Non-conformists here are in earnest opposition to those clauses of Mr. Forster's bill that bear on religious liberty. A private meeting was held on Saturday, at which it was resolved to call a public meeting, and to send petitions to Parliament. The meeting is fixed for Thursday evening at West Orchard Chapel, Thomas Berry, Esq., Mayor, in the chair."

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

Mr. Gladstone received a deputation on Saturday afternoon, at which many objections were raised to the Land Tenure Bill, and it was urged that the tenant right which now prevails in Ulster should be extended to the provinces of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught. Lord Bellew, who introduced the deputation, stated that at a meeting of Irish representatives which had been held on the previous evening the following definition of tenant right was agreed to:—"The right of occupancy, subject to the payment of a rent to which the tenant is liable, or such charge as may be afterwards settled from time to time by fair valuation; the tenant to have the right to sell his interest to any solvent person to whom the landlord cannot make reasonable objection." The Premier stated that the suggestions made should be laid before the Cabinet. At the same time, he reminded the deputation that whilst endeavouring to meet the wishes of the Irish people as far as was practicable, English and Scottish opinion must also be considered. The sympathy of the civilised world had been to a certain extent with Ireland during past controversies, but if a fair offer were now refused, that sympathy might be expected to undergo a change.

Mr. Thomas McClure, M.P., in a letter read at the conference of tenant farmers held at Belfast on Friday, says:—"Whatever different opinions there may be as to the effect of the various provisions of the Land Bill, I think that every candid man must acknowledge that it has been drawn with a sincere desire to benefit the tenants and to give farmers protection in the enjoyment of the fruits of their industry."

A meeting of Conservative Peers and Commons

was held on Saturday afternoon, at the Carlton, to analyse the provisions of Mr. Gladstone's Irish Land Bill. It was arranged that no steps should be taken to arrest the measure in its progress to the second reading, but that several amendments should be drawn up and pressed when the clauses are under discussion in committee.

On Saturday a private meeting of county landlords was held, Lord Bandon presiding, to consider the Land Bill. The discussion was confined to the compensation clauses, which the meeting thought excessive, and a committee was appointed to report on the bill. The Limerick Farmers' Club, on Saturday, adopted resolutions declaring that while they recognised certain good elements in the bill, they reiterated their conviction that it could not be a final settlement, as it made no provision for fixity of tenure. Lord Bandon, at the Agricultural Society, on Saturday, said the bill would do nothing but promote litigation.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

Her Majesty, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Princesses Louise and Beatrice, left Windsor Castle yesterday for Buckingham Palace. The Queen will remain in London for a day or two, and then return to Windsor Castle.

The Queen attended Divine worship in the private chapel at Windsor on Sunday. The Rev. F. J. Holland, minister of Quebec Chapel, preached the sermon.

The Duke of Nemours and Princesses Marguerite and Blanche of Orleans took luncheon with the Queen on Monday.

Her Majesty, it is stated, has been pleased to signify her wish to open the new building of the University of London at Burlington House, in person. The event will take place, in all probability, in the month of May next.

It is stated by the *Latest News*, that owing to the extraordinary expenses to which the Prince of Wales is necessarily subjected by the Queen's retirement from society, Her Majesty has been pleased to express her determination to grant His Royal Highness an allowance of 25,000*l.* per annum.

The Princess of Wales and her children returned to Marlborough House on Saturday afternoon from their visit to the Queen at Windsor, and in the evening the Prince arrived from Lincolnshire.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will pass the greater part of next week at Kimbolton Castle, Huntingdonshire, where they will be the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Manchester.

The Princess of Wales has contributed the sum of 26*l.* 5*s.* to the Norwich Jenny Lind Infirmary for sick children.

Great preparations are to be commenced immediately at Belfast for the reception of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales about Easter. Throughout the north of Ireland the visit is looked upon as an event of great interest. [It is now denied that the Prince is going to Belfast at all.]

At the Cabinet Council on Saturday, all the Cabinet Ministers were present, with the exception of Mr. Bright.

Mr. Bright still remains at Norwood, and it is announced that he is making good progress towards recovery. Mr. Bright hopes to go to Llandudno in the course of a week or ten days.

It is said that the Marquis of Bute is about to join his yacht at Gibraltar, and go a long voyage to Australia and New Zealand.

A special meeting of the Livery of the City of London was held on Thursday, at which Mr. John Paterson was elected without opposition to the office of sheriff, vacant through the death of Sir James Vallentin.

The Hon. Robert O'Brien, brother to Lord Inchiquin and to the late Mr. William Smith O'Brien, dropped dead on Sunday evening, at his own house, while dressing for dinner. The cause of death was heart-disease.

The Manchester Home Trade Association have petitioned Mr. Lowe, if he has any surplus, to consider the claims of sugar and coffee for further reduction of duty.

At the last of the University of Cambridge local examinations, Frederick Stock, son of the Rev. Dr. Stock, of Devonport, passed in six subjects, and in the first-class Honours List, with special honours in mathematics and French.

At a session of the Council of University College on Saturday last, Mr. George Grote, president, in the chair, Mr. Henry Maudsley, M.D. Lond., Fellow of the College, was appointed Professor of Medical Jurisprudence. A Whitworth Exhibition of 25*l.* was awarded to Mr. Robert Forsyth Scott, a student of the college.

The great Conservative banquet in the City takes place this evening. *John Bull* and its correspondents complain earnestly that a political dinner party should be called for a Wednesday in Lent.

MR. BRIGHT AND THE MERCHANT.—A retort of Mr. Bright's has been going the round. Some little time ago the President of the Board of Trade was dining with a well-known citizen of Cottonopolis, and the conversation turned on the subject of the growth and development of America. "I should like," said the host, who is an enthusiastic admirer of the Great Republic, "to come back fifty years after my death to see what a fine country America had become." "I believe you would be glad of any excuse to come back," said Mr. Bright.

Postscript.

Wednesday, March 9th, 1870.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

The House of Lords last evening was occupied for some time in discussing the second reading of Owens College Extension Bill, to which Lord REDDERSDALE objected, on the ground that there was no precedent for the incorporation of non-existing bodies, which he said was its purpose. Eventually the bill was read a second time, a division resulting in 33 to 6 in its favour.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

The debate on the second reading of this bill was resumed in the House of Commons last night. Mr. Maguire, the Attorney-General (Sir R. Collier), Mr. G. H. Moore, Mr. Samuelson, Mr. C. S. Read, The O'Donoghue, Mr. Henley, and the Solicitor-General for Ireland, were the speakers. "There is," says the *Times* in characterising the debate, "neither heart nor substance in the opposition to the principle of the measure. It may be true that every one finds fault with all its details, as Mr. Henley declared last night; but it is also true, as he immediately confessed, that every one ends by expressing his approval of it as a whole. It does not matter on what side the member sits. Mr. Read, the representative of the farmers of Norfolk, certainly showed no excess of sympathy with the Irish character, and bluntly said that no Government could possibly yield the whole or the half that Irish tenants or their spokesmen demanded; but he added that the bill gave all they could justly claim. Mr. George Henry Moore, approaching the subject with all the prejudices of a patriot from Mayo, supported the bill as a conscientious attempt to do justice to Ireland, and frankly said that if Irishmen were disappointed by its provisions they were disappointed because they had been misled and deluded by false advisers. It is scarcely necessary to refer to further evidence. Mr. Hunt fulfilled the proper functions of a chief of the Opposition in criticising the details of the measure, to which it did not pretend to offer any formal opposition; and the Attorney-General for England and the Solicitor-General for Ireland fulfilled their functions as law advisers of the Crown in defending the clauses of the bill against the objections raised from the opposite bench."

At a quarter before twelve o'clock the debate was adjourned until to-morrow (Thursday), on the motion of Colonel Wilson-Patten.

THE INFALLIBILITY OF THE POPE.

The *Paris Monde* (Roman Catholic) publishes a telegram from Rome, dated Monday, stating that the Pope has ordered the distribution of a schema proposing a definition of infallibility. Observations will be admitted until the 17th instant.

A telegram from Bologna, dated yesterday, says:—"Reliable intelligence from Rome announces that in consequence of the publication of the various schemata, several of which, particularly that relative to the infallibility of the Pope, undoubtedly trench upon political ground—the French Government has declared it impossible to continue the attitude of non-intervention towards the Ecumenical Council hitherto maintained. It has, therefore, officially demanded that a special representative of the French Government may be admitted to take part in the deliberations of the Council—at least in so far as relates to the points touched upon in the schemata. Up to the present Cardinal Antonelli has merely acknowledged the reception of the communication of the French Government, and has stated that their request will be taken into consideration and a reply be subsequently given."

THE MORDAUNT DIVORCE CASE is not to be left in its present anomalous and painful position. An order was yesterday made in Chambers by the Judge Ordinary, the effect of which will be that the question of Sir Charles Mordaunt's right to proceed with the case notwithstanding Lady Mordaunt's insanity will be argued and settled.

THE MALT TAX.—Mr. Lowe yesterday received a deputation from the Central Chamber of Agriculture, the members of which urged the importance of either reducing or repealing the malt tax. The right hon. gentleman, in reply, admitted that the impost weighed heavily upon the farmers, and he would be glad to relieve them from it if it were practicable to do so. It was, however, impossible entirely to abolish the duty, but he would consider whether it could be reduced, or a portion of it placed upon beer.

The Rev. John Burnett, LL.D., Vicar of Bradford, died yesterday at Coniston. He was appointed vicar in 1847.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

At Mark-lane to-day, the grain trade has been firm, although business has not been conducted on an extensive scale. The receipts of English wheat have been only moderate. The attendance of millers has been fair. Trade has been firm for both red and white produce, at about late rates. There has been a good show of foreign wheat on the stands. The inquiry has been limited, on former terms. Moderate supplies of barley have been on offer. For all qualities there has been a healthy inquiry, at steady prices. Malt has been quiet, but firm. Oats, the show of which has been moderate, met with a fair request, at full prices. Beans and peas have been firm, with a slow sale. Flour has been steady, and quite as dear.

TO CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS.—An ASSISTANT MINISTER, or an EVENING PREACHER, is REQUIRED for a Church in the neighbourhood of London, easily accessible by Railway.—Address, T. C., 41, St. Mary-at-Hill, Eastcheap, E.C.

SOCIETY for the LIBERATION of RELIGION from STATE PATRONAGE and CONTROL.

The LONDON YOUNG MEN'S COMMITTEE have the pleasure to ANNOUNCE that a PUBLIC CONFERENCE on "Free Churches in relation to Free Thought" will be held in the SCHOOLROOM, WARLETT-ROAD (opposite Holloway Chapel), CAMDEN-ROAD, on TUESDAY EVENING, 15th inst. The subject will be introduced by H. SELF LEONARD, Esq.

The Chair will be taken by Rev. MARK WILKS.

Ladies are specially invited.

Admission free. Commence at Eight o'clock.

WILLIAM THEOBALD, Hon. Sec.

2, Serjeants'-Inn, Fleet-street.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

At a MEETING of the COMMITTEE of the BAPTIST UNION of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND, held MARCH 7, 1870.

Rev. BENJAMIN DAVIES, LL.D., in the Chair, It was resolved—

I.—That this Committee, while approving the effort which Her Majesty's Government is making to establish a National system of Elementary Education, records its conviction that the scheme proposed in the Bill now before Parliament will not be acceptable to the Nonconformists of this kingdom, for the following amongst other reasons, viz. :—

1. Because it will leave many of the rural districts of the country, and of the small towns, in their present unsatisfactory condition as to education.

2. Because it will perpetuate in existing schools, and carry into new ones, distinctions between members of the Established Church and dissenters from it.

3. Because it will excite bitter sectarian strife in all places where Educational Boards shall be created.

4. Because it will revive in a new and most objectionable form the levying of public rates for sectarian objects.

5. Because in all elementary schools established under this Act, or supported by Parliamentary grants or local rates, secular education should alone be given during the fixed school-hours, and religious instruction should be permitted within the school premises at other times only.

6. Because this scheme will enable Her Majesty's Inspectors to interfere, notwithstanding the Conscience Clause, in the religious education of the children, whenever the school managers, and not the parents or guardians of the children, may request them to do so.

II.—That a Petition, signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee, be presented to the House of Commons, setting forth the foregoing objections to the Bill, and praying that School Boards be elected forthwith in all districts, immediately on the passing of the Act, the members of such Boards to be elected by the rate-payers, voting by ballot; that the question of the compulsory attendance of children be not left to the discretion of the School Boards; and that religious instruction be altogether separated from that given under the direction of the Boards, and be neither inspected nor supported by the Government.

III.—That H. S. P. Winterbotham, Esq., M.P., be respectfully requested to present such Petition to the House of Commons, to support its prayer, and to move that it be printed with the vote of the House.

IV.—That it be a recommendation from this Committee to all the churches in the Baptist Union, that Petitions to a similar effect be sent up from every congregation, and that all possible efforts be used to influence Members of Parliament to aid in so amending the Bill.

(Signed) BENJ. DAVIES, LL.D.
Chairman of Committee.
JAMES H. MILLARD,
Secretary.

SOCIETY for ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF and REPRESSING MENDICITY.

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Chairman of Executive Council—The Earl of LICHFIELD.

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ST. GEORGE'S, Hanover-square.—Charity Office, 28, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.

ST. MARYLEBONE.—North District: Charity Office, 10, Princess-street, Grove-road, N.W. South District: Charity Office, 97, Marylebone-road, N.W.

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CHELSEA.—Charity Office, 67, Flood-street.

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By HERBERT S. SKEATS,

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A PLEA

FOR A

FREE CHURCHYARD;

or, the Case in Support of the Burial Laws Amendment Bill.

By J. CARVELL WILLIAMS.

CONTENTS.

Part I. The Present State of the Law.

" II. The Operation of the Law.

" III. The Proposed Amendment of the Law.

Appendix—The Bill to Amend the Burial Laws.

Arthur Miall, 18, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"One who sees the Danger."—We must respectfully decline to discuss the question in our columns, but it will be seen that we have quoted a paper elsewhere on one of its subsidiary phases.

"John Ross."—We have not space to continue the subject.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1870.

SUMMARY.

THIS day the Prime Minister will receive an imposing deputation, composed of deputies from the National League, members of Parliament, and representatives of various Nonconformist bodies, to explain their objections to certain portions of the Government Education Bill, and suggest such alterations as will satisfy their constituents. How strongly the country has been moved by some of the clauses of that measure, is shown by the news contained in another column. It may almost be said that the Liberals, as a party, object to the Education scheme as it has been propounded in the Bill, and that all sections of the party are substantially agreed upon the alterations which will make it acceptable. This fact cannot but have great weight with Mr. Gladstone; and we would fain hope that he will this afternoon be prepared to give such assurances on the subject as will enable his supporters in the House of Commons to enter upon the discussion of Mr. Forster's Bill on Monday next, when the second reading will be proposed, with full confidence that in Committee it will be transformed into a just and really useful measure.

Mr. Gladstone has promised that as soon as the Irish Land Bill has been read a second time, he will make a statement as to the views of the Government on the present condition of Ireland. The assize charges of the several judges in circuit indicate the special circumstances that are likely to lead to some repressive legislation. These are, agrarian outrages, the immunity of crime owing to the ability of obtaining

evidence that will convict, the terrorism exercised over juries, and the wholesale use of threatening letters. In respect to the latter, Mr. Justice George remarks that there is hardly any relation of life, hardly any interest of society, which is not affected by these threatening notices. "They relate to persons holding land, and forbid them paying rent; they even prohibit, in peremptory terms, the most common usages. They do not stop there. They enter into the most sacred transactions of society, and command people to do and abstain from doing acts which ought to be left to their perfectly free will." But this system of terrorism is happily partial. While Mr. Justice George deprecates these lawless indications in Cavan, and the Chief Justice in Meath and Westmeath, other judges testify to the absence of crime in such counties as Sligo, Fermanagh, and Wexford. At the Cork Assizes Mr. Justice Fitzgerald noticed that instances of unconvicted crime were rare, and there was a steady diminution of general crime, though beneath the surface a seditious and treasonable spirit was rife. There does not, therefore, seem to be any need for the general suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, which would indeed be an unsuitable remedy for the disorganised state of certain districts. Remedies of a more specific character are required. The grand jury of Westmeath suggest the formation of a detective force independent of, but connected with the police, and that the power of local taxation for outrages against property shall be extended to outrages against the person. It is probable that the Government will propose some repressive measures in this sense.

The possibility that the Chancellor of the Exchequer may have to deal with a surplus of more than four millions in his financial statement next month, has whetted the appetite of a number of interests. Deputations to Mr. Lowe are the order of the day, and those who wait upon the right hon. gentleman take little for their pains. Attempts have been made to discover whether he intends to propose a reduction of the tea and sugar duties, but the oracle is ambiguous. Yesterday the agricultural interest sent a formidable deputation to Downing-street, to plead for immunity from the malt-tax, which yields a revenue of seven millions per annum. Mr. Lowe was a shade less unyielding than usual. While he pointed out the impossibility of abolishing the tax—"all these duties on spirits and liquors hung together as a whole, and to take off one would unsettle all"—he admitted the reality of the grievance, and hinted that the malt-tax might be reduced. The deputation, on retiring, greeted the Chancellor of the Exchequer with loud and hopeful cheers.

Affairs at Rome seem to be approaching a crisis. The Ecumenical Council has reassembled after an adjournment of several days, and has been discussing, and protesting against, the new regulations for restricting free speech, and requiring observations on the schemes propounded to be submitted in writing. We are now told on Ultramontane authority that the Pope, wearied of these long delays, and exasperated by opposition, has sent to the Council a proposal for the definition of Infallibility, allowing a week for its consideration. On the other hand the Catholic Governments are bringing more active pressure to bear upon the Vatican. The warnings of Count Daru having produced little impression, and his hints of the withdrawal of French troops being unheeded, the Imperial Government have, according to a telegram from Bologna, officially demanded that a special representative of the French Government may be admitted to take part in the deliberations of the Council, at least in so far as relates to the points touched upon in the Schemata that trench upon political matters. The chief effect of this claim will be to give new vigour to the opposition party in the Council. Cardinal Antonelli has simply promised that the request of the French Government, which is in entire accordance with the precedent of former Councils, shall "be taken into consideration."

The general foreign news of the week is meagre. The Ollivier Ministry, strengthened by its recent victory, finds the Legislative Body quite docile, and can afford to disregard the intrigues of the ultra-Imperialists to embarrass it by means of a combination with the Left.—The North German Parliament have given a decisive vote in favour of the abolition of capital punishment, which Count Bismarck declines to accept; and the King of Bavaria has found it necessary to part with his Liberal Premier, Prince Hohenlohe, who is replaced by Count Bray.—The popular elections in the Republic of San Domingo have resulted almost unanimously in favour of the proposed annexation to the United States; and at the Red River settlement the attempt to

suppress the insurgent Government by force of arms has signally failed.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

It is not, perhaps, to be reckoned as an inauspicious feature of the debate which opened on Monday evening, that it presented a marked contrast to almost all the discussions we remember to have read or heard on Irish questions of first-rate magnitude. Usually, collision of thought in the House of Commons, in respect of Irish matters of ordinary importance, has generated no little heat. The atmosphere of the House, long previously to its occurrence, has indicated a full measure of electrical sensitivity. Men's expectations got to be wide awake, and on an earnest, if not an anxious, look out for coming disturbance. That expectation has been commonly enough fulfilled. Debates on Irish matters have, for the most part, been fuller of excitement than of instruction. The Parliamentary mind takes fire under the action of the enthusiastic oratory of the representatives of the Sister Isle, and, but too frequently, there is such an escape of vapour that the real bearings of the object sought are almost entirely hidden from view. It was not so on Monday night. Nobody could complain of the excessive heat engendered by difference of opinion. There was a wonderful calm, but, sooth to say, it was the calm of dulness. The first night's debate on the most exciting topic of the day was positively dreary. For the greater part of the evening the benches on either side of the Speaker's chair were but moderately filled—sometimes nearly deserted. Those who took part in the discussion were scarcely listened to—certainly not with eager attention—and what they said, however appropriate it might have been, evoked no response calculated to inspire the speaker with animation.

This somewhat preternatural dulness cannot be held to argue any indifference to the measure itself. It resulted merely from the foregone conclusion at which the great majority of the House had arrived, as to the present stage of it. It is true that an amendment was moved by highly respectable Irish representatives sitting upon the Liberal side of the House, tantamount to a rejection of the principle of the Bill. But it is well known that it will carry with it very few votes. The Bill is understood by both sides of the House to be a necessity. The principle of it is to protect by law the equitable rights of agricultural tenants in their respective holdings. The Conservatives, through their leaders, and by their own past efforts at legislation in the same direction, have so far conceded the position assumed by the Bill, as to forbid their opposition to it on any fundamental ground of objection. The majority of Irish members, we believe, anxious as they are to modify the provisions of the measure in Committee, decline taking upon themselves the responsibility of throwing out a Land Bill for Ireland, which, even if it falls below the expectations of Irish farmers, goes very much further than any of its predecessors towards the recognition and the enforcement of their just claims. The discussion, therefore, is far more of the nature of desultory criticism than of a conflict between antagonistic forces. It may prove in the end more useful by far than a grand debate. Meanwhile, however, it fails to stir the interest of members. There will, no doubt, be hard, and perhaps hot, struggles over certain details of the Bill, but it seems not unlikely that, as a whole, it will at length be so shaped as to give satisfaction to all reasonable and just demands.

The Government measure is open to serious objection on two grounds, and doubtless Irish members will repeat in Committee the complaints which they made on Monday night on the motion for the second reading. It is urged, and with some show of plausibility, that the North and the South of Ireland are dealt with on terms that are unequal, and that whilst the North gets tenant-right, the South gets only what has a faint analogy to it. Captain White, for instance, who seconded the amendment, demanded on behalf of his own constituents, precisely that kind of "fixity of tenure" which is now the custom in many parts of Ulster, and which the Bill proposes to legalise and enforce. He denied that Irishmen have ever asked for fixity of tenure "pure and simple." He admitted that it would be a gross injustice. He declared that any claim put forward to obtain it had always been accompanied by provisions for eviction in the event of non-payment of rent, or of sub-letting, and for periodical revaluation of rents. It does happen that the proposals of Government give a different kind of tenant-right to the occupiers of the Northern Province from that which it secures for those of the Southern. But there is a reason for this

which can hardly be set aside by a wise statesman. The Bill gives Ulster what Ulster from long-established practice thoroughly understands, and familiarly makes use of day after day. The custom of tenant-right would not be adapted to the rest of Ireland, simply because it has been excluded from common use by other customs. It is impossible to transplant customary modes of thinking, of calculating, of proceeding, from one district to another, by the mere force of the law; just as it is impossible to increase men's ability to protect themselves by substituting for a weaker weapon which they know how to handle a stronger weapon which they have never handled in their lives. It seemed to the Government preferable rather to strengthen the protective customs which the tenants of the South already enjoyed, than to place them under others of a more direct character which, for want of familiar use of them, might probably be less effective, and, therefore, less to be relied on. The seeming—and it is but seeming—contrast between the treatment of the North and of the South of Ireland may, however, be raised by agitators into a formidable obstacle to the success of the Bill; and whatever can be done in Committee to tone down the line of demarcation between them, ought to receive the very earnest consideration of the Premier.

The other weak part of the Bill is unquestionably the all-pervasive legal machinery which it sets up for the administration of its protective provisions. We are not at all surprised at the hostility which this part of the Government scheme excited on Monday night. Mr. Bagwell, indeed, said that if the Bill passed, it would make the profession of attorney the most lucrative in the country. He intimated that landed gentlemen of sufficient fortune would do well to keep private attorneys in connection with their estates, just as in days gone by noblemen, and even squires, kept their private chaplains. We fear there is too much truth in the objection thus urged. It struck us, at first sight, that the measure was adapted to encourage, rather than to suppress, litigation between landlords and tenants. We were informed, however, that, although such might have been the case if the Bill had been framed for England, such was not likely to be the effect of it in Ireland. Irishmen, it was said, had become thoroughly accustomed to resort to arbitration in the event of differences in their trade dealings one with another, and a few decisions by the higher court would establish rules to which all would feel themselves amenable. It may be so; but whether it be so or not, it is all but certain that the relations of landlords to tenants cannot be seriously changed by law, unless by the agency of courts erected with a view to give practical effect to the requirements of law. This, however, quite as much as the Ulster tenant-right, is subject-matter for discussion in Committee.

RETRENCHMENT AND EFFICIENCY.

BOTH the Naval and Military Estimates have thus early in the Session been laid before Parliament, and expounded by the heads of the two departments, and will probably be voted with no opposition and little detailed criticism. They fulfil the economical pledges given by Mr. Gladstone before the present Government came into power, without diminishing that efficiency of our defensive forces which had heretofore been the plea for extravagant expenditure. Comparing the estimates before the present Ministry took office with those for the present year, the result is as follows:—

	Army.	Navy.
1868-9 . . .	15,336,800 . . .	11,157,290
1870-1 . . .	12,975,000 . . .	9,250,530
Reduction . . .	2,361,800 . . .	1,906,760

There has been thus a reduction of our armaments in the two years to the extent of 4,268,560*l.*, or not far short of one-sixth of the aggregate cost. For many years prior to the formation of the Gladstone Cabinet the estimates were culpably extravagant—those for the Navy having been higher, as the *Times* says, than had hitherto been known in time of peace. The Government therefore had a wide margin and favourable conditions for their economical policy. In the pecuniary results of their retrenchments they have not surpassed popular expectation, but they deserve all the credit of effecting them, not by the simple process of cutting down, but by reorganisation and a change of system, from which further relief to the British taxpayer may be expected. And notwithstanding much outcry from vested interests, and the hostile criticism of political opponents, it cannot be denied that both services are actually more effective than has been known of late years, and

that the nation gets greater value for its annual outlay.

The savings in the naval department, though in a pecuniary sense less considerable than those effected in the army, are of far greater value. Sir John Pakington on one memorable occasion undertook to reconstruct the Navy after his own fashion, but was happily prevented. Mr. Childers has not only reconstructed the Navy, but has taken a considerable stride towards reconstructing the department which controls it. We have now the largest and best fleet of ironclads and turret-ships in the world. There are some forty-five of these formidable monsters afloat, apart from our unarmoured ships of war, and the First Lord proposes from fifty to sixty ironclads as the future standard of our chief defensive naval force, although France is satisfied with thirty-five. Even the *Times* regards this estimate as extravagant. But apart from this question, the present Admiralty Board deserves full credit for paying the extra cost of our present full armaments out of the economies effected in the department. If we are over-defended we pay less money, obtain greater efficiency, and save our pockets into the bargain. This desirable object has been secured by such sweeping reforms as are perilous to any Government to propose, and none but a strong Government could carry out. Mr. Childers and his colleagues have disturbed a host of vested interests which, like so many parasites, have been fattening upon the public. To secure efficiency, in accordance with the new policy, by unity of responsibility, by concentration of forces, and by a determination to get the utmost possible amount of work out of all hands afloat and ashore, means the dismissal of sinecure officials, the shutting up of useless dockyards, the discharge of useless hands, the sale of superfluous ships and stores, and the rooting out of inefficiency and corruption. In every department, Mr. Childers boldly says, the Admiralty have "roused out" all the idle, ineffective, or superfluous elements in the service. He himself is consequently only less unpopular among the classes who regard the army and navy as their special and genteel patrimony, than Mr. Baxter, his Financial Secretary, who has wormed out all the secrets of the corrupt contract system, and by bringing to his duties the business capacity of a commercial man, and the devotion of a conscientious servant, has saved the country thousands of pounds.

In the two years referred to, the Army Estimates have been reduced more than two millions and a quarter—a large economy, though due more to the change in our colonial relations than to Mr. Childers's "rousing out" policy. During that period no less than 26,000 men have been recalled from the colonies, to the great relief of the British taxpayer. The Canadian Dominion, Australia, New Zealand, and the Cape will henceforth, and to a great extent with their own consent, provide for their own defence; and with the exception of the garrisons at Malta, Gibraltar, Bermuda, and a few other places, there will soon be no British troops in the dependencies of the Empire. Our greater colonies having entire self-government, freely admit the obligations of self-defence, and the unfairness of taxing the Mother Country for that purpose. Our military force will now be mainly concentrated at home. There is now a Regular Army of 86,225 men in the United Kingdom; Army reserve, 20,600; Militia, 63,600; Yeomanry, 15,300; Volunteers, 168,477—making an aggregate defensive force of 354,202 men. Mr. Cardwell is consequently able to boast that there are more armed men in the United Kingdom than have been known in our time. It is a boast with which we do not sympathise. At the same time it is only candid to remember that less than one third of this great force is composed of professionals—that is, of persons removed from other occupations, and that the time is hardly come for further numerical reductions.

The Secretary for War is hampered by difficulties unknown to his colleague at the Admiralty in carrying out needful reforms. His good intentions are discouraged, if not actually thwarted, by professional obstruction at the Horse Guards. Mr. Cardwell can, however, lay claim to some substantial improvements, and can point to a great many pledges of future reforms. Several of the plans sanctioned by the Government, tend to undermine the double-government system. Such are the schemes for concentrating all our military forces under one management, and for creating a financial Under Secretary for War, who will have free control over Horse-Guards expenditure. Genuine retrenchment has already begun in the War Office, and will be further carried out when the two departments come under one roof. The Government have resolved to abolish the ranks

of Cornet and Ensign, and have taken the initial step towards the cessation of the purchase system, which, if it produce no other good result, will tend to discourage the military spirit, and the pride in great armaments, among our higher classes. Some progress has been made in checking the dangerous idleness of the rank and file by improvements in military education, and by instructing our soldiers in spade-husbandry, in telegraphy, and in various handicrafts. But the army estimates and the number of troops are still very large for a peace establishment, and we trust that in future years the War Office will continue in the path of retrenchment, and receive adequate stimulus in the work of reduction by the representatives of the British taxpayers in the House of Commons.

NEW ZEALAND'S LAST APPEAL.

THE Peers, having very little to do, have indulged in the luxury of another colonial debate. On Monday night the Earl of Carnarvon made a last appeal on behalf of New Zealand, pleading that the 18th Regiment, under orders to sail from Auckland, might be allowed to remain awhile as a discouragement to native disaffection, while the colony was organising its military resources. His lordship, who doubtless expressed the sentiments of the New Zealand deputation now in this country, said that the colony would willingly pay all the cost of the troops, and agree that the Imperial Government should exercise full control over their movements. Earl Granville could only meet the request with a firm negative. His lordship explained how hard it has been for him at times to say "No" to the appeals from New Zealand, but he showed that the firmness of the Home Government had been real kindness to the tried colonists, and that to falter now would be a serious blunder of policy.

All through these chronic troubles in New Zealand there has been room for only one of two policies—the complete subjugation of the Maories, or reconciliation with them. Broadly stated, the war arose out of the land-hunger of the settlers. They got hold of large tracts of fertile territory by unworthy devices—of more indeed than they could hold. They were like the young urchin who had thrust his hand into the jar of filberts, and could not withdraw it without unclasping some of the coveted fruit. But that simple device was not to be thought of. For awhile the Home Government supported the New Zealand settlers in the struggle; but the more the Colonial Office helped, the less the colonists did for themselves. The British Ministry got weary of fighting the battles of New Zealand, and successive Secretaries, Conservative as well as Liberal, from the Duke of Newcastle downwards, have found it necessary to withdraw from all interference in this domestic quarrel. Thus cast on their own resources, the colonists were obliged to fall back upon a policy of conciliation, and exert themselves to carry it out. It has succeeded, spite the fanaticism of a handful of fanatical Maories. The local Government came to terms with the hesitating native chiefs, and won them first to neutrality, and then to friendship. So well has this new method answered, that as Lord Granville says, the condition of New Zealand is now more satisfactory than has been the case for ten years past. The leading Maories were by the last accounts actively engaged in attempting to capture Te Kooti, the ringleader of the native malecontents, who has become a fugitive, who has lost both influence and followers, and is now obliged to sue for terms of surrender.

A remnant of the Imperial troops, the 18th Regiment, six hundred strong, still lingers at Auckland, though it has not for some time been engaged in active service. To the appeal for its further retention, Earl Granville replies that it is not required as a means of protection, and that it would be hazardous at the eleventh hour, when no danger threatens, to change our policy in New Zealand. His lordship's argument is, to our thinking, irresistible. It would be cruel kindness to the colonists to furnish them now with any pretext for relaxing their own successful policy, and plunging anew into the embarrassments of the past. The Home Government are willing to allow some of the young officers and the steadiest of the troops to remain behind, and transfer their services to the colonial administration as the nucleus of a new defensive force. But they will be the servants of the New Zealand authorities, paid and controlled by them. The local Government will thus be free to take their own course. Their own instincts and position will lead them to continue on terms of amity with the natives by restraining the grasping

tendencies of the settlers, and protecting the rights of the Maories. Thus left to themselves, and left to manage their own affairs in their own fashion, there is little doubt that the Mother Country will hear no more of New Zealand difficulties, and receive no more frantic appeals for help.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL TELEGRAPHS.

SCARCELY have the various telegraphic systems already existing in this country become fairly transferred to the hands of the Government officials, ere we are startled with a proposal to extend the new telegraphic operations of the Post Office to the whole of the British Colonies; a feat which, if successfully accomplished, would do more to firmly knit together, in one strong and mighty bond of union, the various portions of our extensive and scattered empire, than could ever be effected by all the dismal croakings and noisy protests of ambitious and fidgety colonial absentees, more eager to publicly ventilate their own particular crotchets and theories than to secure the permanent good of the State. The English Government is now being asked to assist in the laying down of a continuous cable, no less than 24,000 miles in length, by means of which the whole of the colonies would be brought into direct telegraphic communication with the mother country, without the cable once touching the shores of any foreign power. This is a most stupendous project; but its bold and daring character becomes more apparent when we recall the significant fact that not twenty years have yet elapsed since the laying of the first submarine cable between England and France. When, in the autumn of 1850, a few thoughtful and enterprising men, calling in the systematic aid of science and mechanical skill, found themselves enabled to successfully carry an electric wire from Dover to Cape Grisnez, thus providing England and France with the means of instantaneous communication with each other, great were the rejoicings in both countries. The English and French newspapers seemed never to weary of the marvellous theme, yet only a few short months previously the projectors of the enterprise were energetically denounced as foolish enthusiasts, as empty dreamers who had foolishly deluded themselves into a belief in the possible success of an impracticable enterprise. Then came the sudden and unexpected stoppage of electric communication between the two countries, a disaster arising purely from inexperience, yet which served to elicit the most absurd and frantic expressions of delight from the zealous prophets of evil. "Electric telegraphs might do on land," said they, "but they would never succeed at the bottom of the sea."

Little did these unreasoning sceptics know of the wondrous and inexhaustible resources of science; how they assisted in transforming seeming dreams into stubborn facts, rendering the stern improbabilities of to-day the golden possibilities of to-morrow. No sooner were the shores of England and France effectually united with each other by means of the electric wire, than submarine cables became the order of the day; the boldness and enterprise of the projectors increasing with every fresh success. Then came the great Anglo-American cable. Who does not remember the intense and almost painful anxiety with which the gradual progress of this remarkable experiment was regarded on both sides of the Atlantic; how, for months previously, the newspapers in Europe and America strenuously vied with each other in furnishing details of the preparations; and how, when the cable had been at last successfully laid between the Old and New Worlds, it seemed as if Science had achieved her crowning triumph, that henceforward there were no more realms for her to conquer. But how impotent are we to read the future! Vast as are the results already obtained, they are but the promise of those which have yet to come. The progress of electric telegraphy will never cease until every important city and town in the whole world shall have become included in one vast and comprehensive system of instantaneous intercommunication, and it shall have been rendered as easy and cheap to forward a telegraphic message from London to Bombay or Sydney, as it is now to post a letter from the same place to Glasgow or Dublin.

The proposed extension of the postal telegraphic system to the colonies appears inevitable, however much the earlier stages of the enterprise may be retarded by public indifference or official neglect. It is simply a question of time. The comprehensive character of the scheme just submitted to the consideration of the English Government is characteristically shown by the proposed route of the cable, as represented on a map accompanying the prospectus.

The cable is to commence at the Land's End, whence it would be carried to Halifax, in Nova Scotia, hence to Bermuda; from Bermuda to Barbadoes, connecting all the West India Islands; from Barbadoes to Demerara; from Demerara to Ascension; from Ascension to St. Helena; from St. Helena to Cape of Good Hope; from Cape of Good Hope to Natal; from Natal to Mauritius; from Mauritius to Ceylon, connecting with all lines throughout India; from Ceylon to Australia; from Australia to Tasmania; and from Tasmania to New Zealand. A duplicate line is to be laid between Ireland and Quebec for the purpose of accommodating the increasing amount of Canadian and American traffic, which is already very large. The entire line of electric communication would require about 24,000 geographical miles of cable, which would be fully equivalent to Shakespeare's idea, as expressed by Puck, of a "girdle round about the world."

There is no need to go into all the details of the new scheme, save to state that the promoters assert that it can be carried out at a cost of about 4,000,000*l.*, and they suggest that the Government should guarantee the interest on this sum at 3½ per cent., or 140,000*l.*, and that each of the colonies shall contribute *pro rata* to the guarantee. They anticipate, however, that the cable would yield a revenue of 500,000*l.* a year, leaving 360,000*l.* to be applied in laying duplicate cables throughout. With regard to the cost, they point out that although the Government recently paid 7,000,000*l.* to acquire the telegraph system of the United Kingdom and the continental cable, at least 4,000,000*l.* of that sum went as profit to private individuals. They think there is every reason to believe that the extension of the Post Office telegraphs to the whole of our colonies will be required as well for commercial as for Imperial interests, and that if a great number of vested interests are allowed to be established with British capital, the Government will either be obliged, as it is hoped by many will be the case, to purchase them at exorbitant prices, or have to come forward as competitors in the business of telegraphic communication. What can now be executed for 4,000,000*l.* might in the course of a few years cost ten or eleven millions. The cool manner in which a few millions of hard cash are spoken of as if they were merely so many thousands of pounds, is almost enough to take one's breath away. The wildest of the many audacious schemes broached during the most exciting and reckless period of the South Sea bubble, or even during the disastrous time of the great railway mania, never mentioned sums equal in magnitude to those which are now calmly and confidently asked, as a mere matter of course, to execute a scheme concerning the feasibility of which there cannot be two opinions.

But this very fact illustrates the enormous extent of our recent scientific and mechanical progress. This is the age of steam; the next will be the age of electricity. With enhanced knowledge of electrical phenomena will come increased utilisation of the unseen and mysterious power for industrial purposes. Our children may come to regard the modern locomotive much in the same light as we at present look upon the old stage coach, once the pride and glory of our turnpike roads, and the envy of the foreigner. Who can say that such a result is impossible? We may even yet live to behold our omnibuses and cabs propelled by means of electricity. Such an idea is by no means new, but we wonder how these vehicles of the future will be regulated by the Home Secretaries who may happen to be in power? Will the drivers of electric cabs be ordered to raise and lower their flags by means of the subtle fluid? Will passengers be enabled to communicate in like manner with the driver? Imagine a fare telegraphing instructions to Cabby without the latter stopping! Yet all this, however improbable, is possible. Nay, more. In the numerous private telegraphs existing in the metropolis and the provinces may be detected the germs of a future vast extension of the new postal telegraph system. Sooner or later, wires must be connected between the post-offices and the various industrial establishments, where large numbers of telegraphic messages are received and forwarded daily. It may not be in our time, but come it will, and then we shall have the strange and remarkable spectacle of a merchant quietly dispatching from the desk of his counting-house a message to some customer in far off India or Australia, and immediately receiving a reply. Little dreamed Franklin, when he performed his daring experiment of obtaining electricity from the louring sky, what mighty results were destined to follow. The formation of railways has materially influenced the political and social history of the civilised world; how far in like manner will it be swayed by the increasing influence of the postal telegraph? Who can tell?

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

The consequences of the great Ministerial victory of February 24 are developing themselves daily. The deputies absent from Paris during the short recess have written to their friends from the departments that opinion is most favourable to the present attitude of the Cabinet. The vanquished members of the Right get communications from their constituents of a character to make them more and more resigned to their defeat.

The old Imperial journals, more especially the *Peuple Français* (which no longer reflects the personal views of the Emperor), are making strong efforts to destroy confidence in the Ollivier Ministry by charging them with being Orleanists. They are also resorting to an old trick, making common cause, so far as resistance to the Government goes, with the ultra-Democratic press, and the two extremes are complimenting one another by quoting the articles of each against the Government. The Ultramontane press is also very indignant with M. Daru, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, for the attitude he is understood to have taken against the syllabus and the dogma of infallibility.

The French Chamber also reassembled on Monday, and the system of administration in Algeria occupied the attention of members. The debate was adjourned. In the course of the sitting the new postal tariff between France and Great Britain was laid on the table.

General Leboeuf, the Minister of War, made the following announcement in reference to the Algerian Administration:—"Until a new order of things shall be established, all military affairs will remain subject to the exceptional measures of the present day, but, as regards civil affairs, the authority of the generals in command will be limited, as in France. The Prefects will be dependent only on the Governor-General of the colony, and will no longer be subordinate to the military commanders."

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* is authorised to contradict the statement that the Emperor addressed to Count Daru, after the Minister's famous speech, a letter of congratulation. Also the same writer is authorised to contradict the report that France has proposed to the other great military powers a general disarmament. "France has made no proposal for the reduction of the military force, and is not likely to do so after Count Bismarck's speech. The reduction of the military contingent lately made known means simply that a certain proportion of men have been sent on furlough."

According to the *France*, at a dinner given on Friday at the Tuilleries to some members of the Legislative Body, the Emperor expressed his resolution not to dissolve the Legislative Body under present circumstances.

It is stated that almost the moment after the breath was out of the body of the late Cardinal De Bonald, Archbishop of Lyons, the Pope telegraphed to the Emperor recommending an Ultramontane bishop for the vacant see. The Emperor returned a telegraphic answer expressing his regret that he could not attend to the wishes of the Holy Father, because his Ministers had already appointed Monsignor De Genouillac Archbishop of Lyons, who is said to be a man of profound erudition in matters of dogmas and ecclesiastical history.

The Decentralisation Committee has entered upon its labours. By giving votes to the seven secretaries M. Chevandier de Valdrome has greatly increased the power of the Orleanist, or Rue de Poitiers, element, which is now the dominant one in it. It is thought that M. Odillon-Barrot and his adherents will propose the abolition of sous-prefectures and absorb in the cantonal councils the councils of arrondissements.

The *Gazette des Tribunaux* states that seventy-four of the rioters arrested recently in Paris still remain in custody. It adds:—"And they are charged with conspiracy, and that serious indictments have been made out against all of them."

Preparations are about to be made at Tours for the installation of the High Court of Justice, before which Prince Pierre Bonaparte is to be tried on the 21st inst.

A rumour prevails in Paris that it is in contemplation, at the instance of MM. Odillon-Barrot, Guizot, and Thiers, to raise the legal age of voters from 21 to 25. The *Public*, of Saturday evening, follows the *Constitutionnel* in giving publicity to this report, and heads its announcement, "Universal suffrage threatened."

It is said to be quite settled now that M. Prevost Paradol will be appointed Minister Plenipotentiary at Washington. M. Daru resisted for some time, but M. Guizot has prevailed.

GERMANY.

The North German Parliament has abolished capital punishment by a vote of 118 to 81, in spite of a strong speech from Count von Bismarck, and a threat that the Federal Council would reject the common Penal Code.

The constitutional difficulty in Bavaria has been met for the present by the formation of a Ministry with Count Bray as its leader, in succession to Prince Hohenloe, who has been appointed Councillor of State and Capitulary of the Royal Order of St. Hubert.

The *Cologne Gazette* says the relations of Prussia and France are at present of the most friendly character.

A Berlin letter, referring to the late debate on

the proposed admission of Baden into the North German Confederation, says:—"In the course of the discussion, Count Bismarck owned that the Baden Government, through Herr Mathy, one of its members, asked for admission to the Bund as far as three years back, but was refused. The suspicion at the same time angrily expressed by Count Bismarck that the present debate had been inflicted upon him at the request of the Baden Ministers, has been contradicted in the official *Carlsruhe Zeitung*. However this may be, the debate was a demonstration of the national party in the North to raise the spirits of their Southern friends, and assure them of their active co-operation in the common cause. It appears that the unity agitation, which had almost subdued since the war, the matter being entirely left to the Government, is about to be resumed with a will. Government declining to advance at the pace the public desire, the latter evince a growing disposition to urge them on. Whoever remembers that Prussia, originally averse from unity, as it would bring on foreign entanglement, and promote the ascendancy of Liberalism at home, was, chiefly by popular agitation, compelled and encouraged to face Austria at Sadowa, will not look upon such debates as the above as mere empty verbiage. If it took the people some twenty years to send the Prussian army to the Bohemian battle-fields, it will probably require much less time to enable them to accomplish the little that remains to be done by the reunion of 9,000,000 Southerners with 30,000,000 Northerners."

SPAIN.

The *Gaulois* on Saturday published an announcement in the form of a telegram from Madrid, that the Duke of Montpensier had arrived there, and had been enthusiastically received. It was added that the duke's candidature gained ground daily. Subsequent despatches direct from the Spanish capital, say that the duke has arrived indeed, but that nobody took any notice of his coming. It is stated to have been ascertained that the enthusiasm was concocted in Paris, no telegram about it having been despatched from Madrid. General Prim has assured the Cortes that the Government has no sympathy with the Duke of Montpensier's claims, and intends to do nothing to further them.

The correspondents of the English journals speak of the political state of the country as very unsatisfactory. In some districts the Carlists have made considerable progress. The Moderados are working hard for a reaction; whilst the Liberal parties, although still much stronger in numbers than any of the others, are evidently weaker than they used to be. Some of the hottest Federal Republicans have become rank Carlists. Malaga, which not long ago was noted for its ultra-Liberal ideas, is at the present moment acquiring a like notoriety for its Carlist sentiments. It is thought that each day the monarchical question is deferred is an advantage gained by the Reactionists, and although Prim cares little for this as long as he holds the army in his hands, the army may grow tired of not having "pronunciamientos" with the attendant promotions. The fact that certain officers of high standing have been detected trying to spread discontent in the ranks, and have had to be sent off to the Canaries and Philippines, shows that such things are as possible, nay probable, now as before.

The Bishop of Olma has been brought to Madrid under the charge of an officer of Civil Guards, to be proceeded against for contempt of law. The Archbishop of Santiago is also in the same predicament.

AMERICA.

It is reported that the popular elections in the Republic of San Domingo have resulted almost unanimously in favour of the proposed annexation to the United States.

Mr. Deweese, a Republican from North Carolina, has resigned his seat in the House of Representatives, to avoid expulsion for having sold a Westpoint cadetship. His example was followed by Mr. Golladay, a Democrat from Kentucky, against whom similar charges are under the consideration of the investigating committee.

Three more members of the House, two of them belonging to the Republican and one to the Democratic party, are also charged with a like offence.

The House of Representatives, by 107 votes against 48, has passed a resolution declaring that the interests of the country demand such a tariff on foreign imports as will best protect home manufactures and industries without impairing the revenue.

The Funding Bill, which, a telegram published on Saturday informs us, is under consideration in the American Senate, does not propose to fund the entire debt of the United States, as might naturally be supposed, but only about one-half of it. According to a cable message, the national debt of the United States amounted on March 1 to 487,665,695 $\frac{1}{2}$ sterling, taking the sovereign to be worth five dollars. Of these several kinds of bonds the Five-Twenties constitute about three-fifths. On the 1st of last December they amounted to 320,534,250 $\frac{1}{2}$; and in his annual report Mr. Boutwell calculated that, on the 1st of July (the end of the American financial year), 290,000,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ of them would remain outstanding. It is with these alone that the Funding Bill deals.

Her Majesty's ship *Monarch*, which conveyed the remains of Mr. Peabody to America, has left Annapolis for England.

THE CANADIAN DOMINION.

Dr. Schult's attempt to put down Riel's Government at Fort Garry has failed. The settlers generally declined to aid his force, and it was dispersed and partially captured. Major Boulton, who was taken prisoner, will, it is feared, be shot.

At the opening of the Parliament of New Brunswick on the 10th ult., the Governor referred in his speech to the attention which the subject of emigration to the British colonies was exciting in this country. "Tens of thousands," he added, "able and willing to work, and who are to a certain extent a burden upon the charities of the mother country, could in many portions of our Dominion at once earn a comfortable subsistence, and within a few years become thrifty farmers, as thousands have already done, and add materially to the strength of the Empire, and I trust you will devise such measures as will secure to this province a share of the prospective immigration to the Dominion, sufficient to supply the present demand for farm labour, and lead to the early occupation of our wilderness land."

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The *Philadelphia Ledger* says that the British Minister at Washington is soon to be made Sir Edward Thornton, Bart.

The February weather in America is described as having been very severe. In Chicago, four soldiers stationed at Fort Abercrombie were frozen to death.

The restriction which debarred merchant vessels from passing through the Bosphorus and the Straits of the Dardanelles has been removed by an Imperial decree. All entrance dues have also been abolished.

An alliance is projected between the Archduke Louis Victor, of Austria, and the daughter of the ex-King of Hanover—a project which is expected to give rise to much dissatisfaction at the Court of Berlin.

A suit for separation *a mensa et thoro* is announced between the Count Girgenti and his wife, the Infanta Isabella, daughter of the ex-Queen of Spain. The wife complains of the extravagances of the husband, who is said to have squandered all her dowry.

M. RENAN.—The *Opinions Nationales* announces that the restoration of M. Renan to the Chair of Hebrew at the College de France, is decided upon, and his nomination only awaits the Ministerial ratification.

THE NEW INDIAN TELEGRAPH.—A telegram, dated the 2nd inst., announces that the laying of the British Indian Telegraph cable has been completed between Bombay and Aden. The Great Eastern left the latter place and proceeded with the Red Sea section on Thursday.

THE VICEROY OF INDIA opened the Ohanda coal-field on the 1st instant, and on the 4th he opened the Khangaum railway, and to-day he proceeds to Jubbulpore, to meet the Duke of Edinburgh, who is to open the Great Indian Peninsular throughout.

THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT reassembled on Monday after its somewhat long recess. Several bills were presented, and it was announced that the financial statement would be made on Thursday. To-day a debate will take place on the subject of the Naples banks.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH reached Delhi on the 5th ult., left it on the 8th, and arrived at Lahore on the 9th. Great preparations were making in Bombay to welcome him to that city, and a very large sum had been subscribed to pay the expenses. At Madras there had been a public meeting to arrange for a fitting reception of the Duke, and to collect funds.

PRINCE ARTHUR.—The *Philadelphia Press* says:—"Just before leaving Boston, Prince Arthur sent to Miss Minnie Sherman, daughter of General Sherman, a chaste and costly medallion, having his likeness on one side and that of Queen Victoria on the other. Accompanying the gift was a delicately worded note, in which the Prince begged that Miss Sherman would accept the medallion as a token of his appreciation of the generous hospitalities he had experienced at the house of her father, and as a slight tribute to the beauty of American women, of which she was so striking an exponent."

THE CARNIVAL AT ROME.—The Carnival has gone on flatly and stupidly, frowned upon by the Romans in general—only supported by the strangers, who make vehement efforts to infuse a life wanting to the inert mass; by the speculators, who hope to enrich themselves through the exorbitant letting of windows or seats; and by the gamins, who contribute to the row on the Corso. It is true that the weather during the greater part of last week, till the Saturday, was cold, wet, windy; but even on the fine and mild days, the scene on the Corso announced a pitiful failure of the intended gaieties even to a greater degree than the opening had promised.—*Letter from Rome.*

THE LAST STAKE.—A singular event has just occurred at Kœthen, in the Principality of Anhalt. A middle-aged man entered the gaming-rooms and sat down at the table. After a time he gained 1,000 ducats. The croupier passed the money over to him and asked if he wished to continue, but as no answer was returned one of the assistants touched him on the shoulder. The individual still remained immovable—for it turned out that he was dead! The man in charge of the table then raked up the gold, saying that it belonged to the bank, as no engagement could have been entered into with a corpse. The heirs of the deceased are not convinced of the soundness of this reasoning, and they have commenced an action for the recovery of the sum.

THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE BOMBAY AND THE ONEIDA.—The Peninsular and Oriental Steam

Navigation Company have received from their agent at Bombay the following telegraphic account of the disastrous collision off Yokohama:—"The collision between the Bombay and the Oneida occurred on the 24th of January, about twenty miles from Yokohama, at seven p.m. It was quite dark, the Oneida being under all sail, and going thirteen knots; the Bombay steaming head to wind, going eight knots. The Bombay ported her helm, shutting in the Oneida's green lights. The Oneida starboarded her helm crossing the Bombay's bows, rendering a collision unavoidable. The Bombay felt the shock so little that Captain Eyre did not think the Oneida could have been much damaged, and continued his voyage on to Yokohama. The Oneida was cut down on the quarter, and soon sank, with 115 men. Two of her boats with sixty-one men escaped. Do not know the names of the officers drowned. Saved—Yates, master; Suddard, surgeon; Coningfield, captain's clerk; and fifty-seven sailors and marines. The Bombay is not damaged."

THE WORKING CLASSES IN AMERICA.—Mr. Thomas Connolly, a stonemason who is well known amongst the artisans of this country, has been to America to investigate the condition of the working men of that country. Writing to the *Daily Telegraph*, he says:—"Most of the works have been stopped for two or three months past, and fully 30 per cent. of the working population are now unemployed, and will, in all probability, so remain until April or May. During a strike last spring, four or five hundred New England girls were introduced into the printing trade at New York, and they still continue to displace nearly an equal number of men. Tailors employ women, and use sewing-machines. Since the conclusion of the war, pianos are in great demand; wherever you turn there are manufactories for their construction. Bakers are poorly paid. In New York there are 125 lodges of trade unions, having 90,000 members. In Massachusetts the shoemakers have a society comprising 264 lodges and 2,000 members. No society has much money in hand, and none can be compared in strength and efficiency to the trades unions in England. Their strikes, which are carried on by means of a levy on the members at work, and by gifts and loans from other trades, are as long and as destructive as in England. He adds, "There are more men out of work in New York at present than in London, in proportion to the population."

THE UNITED STATES AND THE MORMONS.—The Philadelphia correspondent of the *Times*, writing on February 18, says:—"The House of Representatives contemplates soon paying its respects to the Mormons, and the debate on the bill concerning them has already begun. This bill declares polygamy unlawful, punishes men practising it with fine and imprisonment, authorises the use of the military to enforce its provisions, deprives polygamists of all the rights and privileges of citizenship, and allows only the Supreme Court Judges and clergymen of Utah to solemnise marriages. Yesterday Mr. Cullom (Republican), of Illinois, who has charge of the bill, stated that the condition of affairs in Utah demanded the immediate interference of Congress. As Brigham Young and his Church controlled the territorial Legislature and judges, it became necessary to substitute a United States judiciary for the territorial one. There was not a member of the Utah Legislature who was not a prominent member of the Mormon Church; no other could be elected. The leading Mormons, who were practising polygamy in the face of Federal authority, should be rendered ineligible to vote or hold office. They were criminals running at large, and were no more qualified to hold office than the people lately in rebellion. The Gentiles who went there to settle were so persecuted they could not remain there, and were appealing for protection. The bill proposed to place affairs on such a footing as to offer inducements for immigration. Letters from Utah state that unless this bill or something like it pass, every man who is not a Mormon will have to leave the territory, and that very soon, or else place himself in a position to be murdered by the Mormons, who are organising an armed force in opposition to the bill. He thought only a few companies of soldiers would be necessary to enforce the laws in Utah. All that was necessary was to give the courts power to enforce convictions for violations of the law, and to show that the Government means business and does not mean to temporise any longer with that iniquity. Salt Lake would submit, and we would get rid of polygamy. The military strength of the Mormons he did not think greater than 8,000 arms-bearing men. He did not believe there would be any attempt to resist the United States authority by force of arms, but if there should, America ought not to shrink from enforcing the laws over such a small body of people. Polygamy he denounced as devised by Satan himself, and as having gone hand-in-hand with murder, idolatry, and every other abomination. The bill was laid aside without concluding the debate."

THE OPINIONS AND PRACTICE OF THE LATE M. COMTE.—An action in France, arising out of the will of the late Auguste Comte, the founder of Positivism, has been the means of eliciting some curious points in regard to his opinions and career. The will was disputed by his widow. It appears (says the *Daily News*) that M. Comte was blessed with a wife of rare intelligence and spirit, whose sympathies were wholly with him in his earlier philosophical researches, but that after a time he deserted her, and formed a connection with a lady of the name of Clotilde de Vaux. In his earlier writings M. Comte gave publicity to a theory which was marked by great originality. Human belief, according to M. Comte, must pass through three great stages in its march towards the

perfection of science. At first men refer all events to Divine influence. In the second stage they explain everything by reference to metaphysical entities, and on this point M. Comte has been less explicit than in the other parts of his work. The third stage of belief, according to M. Comte, is that in which men cease to look for causes and only observe effects; the laws of nature are investigated, and men inquire into what does and what will happen, with a view to scientific knowledge and a mastery over nature. These three stages are called respectively the Theological, the Metaphysical, and the Positive, and it is clear that the last stage leads to *atheism pure and simple*. It is as directly opposed as a system can be to anything which implies a belief in religion or in any supernatural world. Prayer would be unmeaning, because it would be an appeal to an imaginary Being to obstruct the laws of nature, which are, and ever have been, inviolable. M. Comte himself, in his later works, dating from the commencement of his intimacy with Clotilde de Vaux, supplemented these opinions by fresh maxims, with which they certainly are wholly inconsistent. He reintroduced a sort of *quasi-religion*, consisting of the worship of humanity; he established forms of devotion, and dedicated certain days in the year to the memory of great men whose achievements he conceived to have been beneficial to their race. In this fantastic imitation of the Romish calendar M. Comte reproduced a form of what he before considered human superstition in a manner calculated to shock the feelings alike of religiously-inclined persons, and of those to whose gratitude his former speculations had given him a title. But the question before the Court was not whether M. Comte's opinions were true, but whether they were consistent. His widow maintained that there was so marked a repugnance between his earlier and his later tenets that it was impossible he could have been other than insane in his later days. On the other side, it was urged that a man's philosophical system must be taken and judged as a whole, and that Madame Comte listened to the promptings of jealousy. The Court decided that the insanity was not made out, but directed that the unjustifiable expressions used by M. Comte regarding his wife should be struck out of the will.

CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE.

(From the *Western Daily Press*, Feb. 18.)

Two ladies—Harriet Martineau and Josephine E. Butler—bring under the notice of the public, in a letter inserted in another column, a grievance which seems to merit the attention of certain of our metropolitan contemporaries, who are, according to allegations made, deliberately attempting to suppress public opinion on a social question which cannot be considered unimportant. If the charge now made had been brought by unknown writers, who, having a predilection for print, had been disappointed because London editors did not choose to give up valuable space to air the crotchets of the writers, it might have been passed over as worthy of small attention; but as it is made by ladies, the name of one of whom is a household word, and who has been among the ablest contributors to the columns of one of the journals accused, it carries with it a weight which will command, as it deserves, the attention of the public, however it may be answered or avoided by the parties whose fair-play is brought into question. A few days ago Robert Charlton complained in our columns that the opponents of the Acts which have found an able champion in Berkeley Hill, are fighting their battle, so far as London is concerned, with unequal weapons, inasmuch as a large part of the London press admit articles and letters in favour of the Acts, and, with little exception, unite in refusing to admit anything on the opposite side. The ladies, whose letters we publish to-day, make an advance on this general statement, and particularise two offending journals. The *Pall Mall Gazette* recently inserted a letter written by Elizabeth Garrett, pleading for the Acts; and to this replies were sent, among others, by three men of eminence in the world, Professor Amos, Dr. Elliott Bell, and Dr. Hooppell—all of which were rejected. The *Daily News* has pursued a similar course. It admitted a letter from Berkeley Hill, and refused to insert an answer written by Dr. C. Bell Taylor. Such are the allegations of the ladies. And the moral they draw from all this is that we over-estimate the value of our boasted free press. While such a conspiracy of silence is possible and practised, they say, we English greatly exaggerate our privileges when we think that in the press we have the right to have both sides heard in momentous matters of morality and legislation.

We are not going to defend or excuse our contemporaries, as they are quite able to look after themselves, but it is new to us to know that leading London journals are conspiring to suppress the arguments on one side of a great public question. Journalists of the *Tom Pot* school might be suspected of thus abusing the power they possess when they get into the editorial chair, but the two papers mentioned are papers of repute, one professedly written by gentlemen for gentlemen, and the other a veteran in philanthropic work. Since the *Daily News* was started, under the editorship of Mr. Charles Dickens, it has been a pattern of consistency, and it has brought to bear on English social life and English politics a degree of ability which has won the admiration of the best judges of newspaper work; and it has exhibited besides a cosmopolitan spirit which has contrasted strongly with the narrowness of some of its contemporaries. In the greater reforms which have been won during its existence it has always

been first in the fight, but never ungenerous to a foe—striking with the might of a giant, yet never refusing justice to an antagonist. Are we to believe that all this has changed with the new editorship, as the ladies assure us? Is the gallantry all gone, and the once generous journal, a tool of a clique, afraid to hear "the other side"? The allegation is made by a lady whose writings for many years adorned the pages of the *News*, and who is accustomed to weigh her words before using them. The *Pall Mall Gazette*, too, has done good service in its time. We may not admire the casuistry which sometimes finds a place in its columns, but no one will charge it with feebleness when it undertakes to support a particular cause. Journalists know as well as other people the truth of the Latin maxim which says that cowards win no laurels, and the two papers whose fairness has been impugned have not been lacking in a kind of temerity which obtains credit. Still there is the fact brought forward by the ladies. Both papers have inserted strongly-worded letters in support of the Acts, and have refused to insert replies. This conspiracy of silence presents to the public one side only of a great question, and against this our correspondents think they have a good right to complain. The public would like to know what the journals referred to have to say to the charge. They must value their reputation for fair play, and when it is brought into question by such a lady as Miss Martineau, they are quite well aware that it must suffer unless some answer is given. This, however, is a matter for themselves. It affects, no doubt, the character of the London press, but primarily it touches the two journals named.

On the merits of the discussion which is now taking place with respect to the Acts referred to, we need not repeat our opinions. We are convinced that when the true character of the Acts is known, they will evoke an opposition which has rarely been witnessed in connection with a social question. The English people do not care much for mere sentiment when it stands in the way of a work that affects public health; but they will never tolerate the personal outrage which is a part of the machinery of the Acts our correspondents oppose. On the other hand, we are equally convinced that the vice of the streets cannot be left in its present condition. The revelations of the Registrar-General's weekly return, showing how the innocent suffer, are alone sufficient to stir up the public and Parliament to endeavour to mitigate the sufferings which are now inflicted on families. But, whatever may be our individual opinions on the desirability of taking this or that particular course, there ought to be none as to the necessity of hearing both sides. A more important social question has never been brought before the public, and to suppress the arguments on one side, and give prominence to those on the other, would only betray a consciousness of weakness, and a fear of the truth. Milton's great defence of a free press may be applied with equal force to restraints which originate with individuals as well as to those which originate with Governments. Those who suppress the views of an opponent lay themselves open to the suspicion that they cannot answer him, and while they do this they do what is still worse—they lower the tone and character of English journalism, depreciate the value of an institution which has been lauded as the fourth estate, and which has done so much, by its impartiality in recording the opinions of all parties, to help on the good time which, although ever in the future, surely comes nearer with each beneficial reform. We should not like to say that our metropolitan contemporaries are guilty of the charges brought against them, but the public will believe that there is truth in the allegations made, unless they can give a good and sufficient reason for the course they have taken, in refusing to the opponents of the Acts the same opportunities for discussion which they conceded so readily to those by whom the Acts are supported.

The ladies of Bradford have for some time been actively engaged in getting up petitions for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act. Two petitions were sent to the Right Hon. W. E. Forster on Saturday, each bearing 6,000 signatures, praying for the repeal of the above Act, one for the House of Lords and the other for the House of Commons.

DELETERIOUS TEA.—Dr. Letheby's report on the sanitary condition of the City contains important testimony as to the inferior quality of the tea lately imported from China. Some samples of "fine Moning congou" recently tested, consisted of "redried leaves of exhausted tea, for the most part rotten from putrefactive decomposition, offensive in smell, and producing a nauseous and unwholesome liquid." This detestable stuff, according to the same report, is collected in one of the filthiest districts of Shanghai, where it is gathered in heaps to be dried in the sun, and where it is subject to the unrestricted incursions of dogs and pigs. No less than seven million pounds of it were recently sold at a public sale at the advanced price of 5½d. per lb., to be used for adulterating genuine tea. It is satisfactory to learn that the City authorities have instituted proceedings to prevent its further sale. The attention thus drawn to the subject is all the more timely and important, from the announcement that no less than seven million pounds of this stuff—we cannot call it tea—are believed to be on the way from China.

Literature.

A SCOTCHMAN OF THE BEST TYPE.*

The common notion is that there are just two types of Scotchmen—the fantastic, noisy fire-eater, who is wildly intent on converting everyone he meets to the narrow ideas with which he is possessed; and the stolid, acquisitive Scot, who cannot argue, cannot see a joke, and is only intent on cautiously gathering together this world's gear, impervious to all the finer impressions and sentiments of human nature. Differing in much, the two are held to be alike in this, that they are intensely egotistic; their egotism, however, not being of that fine kind common enough further south, which leads the subject of it to a sort of easy conformity in minor matters, but issuing rather in an attitude of stolid protest, in which the most subsidiary matter may be carried up into the realm of conscience, and become a testing-point by which everything whatever has to be tried. Though this is not the whole truth, there is some truth in it, as seen in a thousand matters—social, political, religious. To take an instance from the religious sphere: the various sects of Scotland have for the most part separated from the Establishment, and have been kept apart from each other, because of differences on such minor points that they are sometimes hardly appreciable by strangers. What can an Englishman make, for instance, of the Burgher and Anti-Burgher, the New Light and the Old Light controversies? It is all he can do to get at the grounds of the Free Church Disruption, seeing that the leaders of that movement would not hear of being voluntaries; and all an Englishman's difficulties revive and redouble themselves, when he comes on the fine points which still separate the Free Church, after more than a quarter of a century of practical voluntarism, from union with the United Presbyterians, who, in doctrine, in polity, and discipline, are precisely identical.

But it has not been exactly the same in the political sphere; and when we wish to view the Scotch character fairly, we must so focus our glass as to take in some of the further levels of that field. Of course, it lies very close to the ecclesiastical one, from which the Scotch have, since the Reformation, drawn much of their peculiar self-assertive and individual energies; but still it is quite distinct from it. The Presbyterian discipline has had one great advantage; it has made the nation a nation of debaters. No great speech is ever delivered in Presbytery, Synod, or Assembly, but it is canvassed by hundreds and thousands who regard the speaker either as representing them or opposing them; and hence there has sprung up a certain sense of equality and claim to be heard on the ground of the real quality and force of the thing said, apart altogether from the influence and position of the sayer of it. Scotsmen are intensely, and by the necessity of their institutions, democratic and republican. They will obey readily, but only him whom they feel that they have themselves elected; and the right of election they have always had an instinct for vesting in themselves, and for asserting. The lessons thus learned in the ecclesiastical sphere, they very soon and aptly began to apply in the political one; and the manner in which the Scotch spirit has borne itself in its escape into the field of practical politics from the niceties of metaphysical discussions and wranglings, over the exact place of the civil power towards religion, has been very noticeable and beneficial to the whole Empire. It is here that we see the Scotchman's most unlikeable traits drop away in the desire to calmly, almost stolidly, face all the facts, to see who really has the best side and the most logical and common-sense arguments to advance; to find who can show forth the virtues of moderation in speech, when verging on an extreme or daring line of action, and who can gain most by economy of effort, never taking up positions from which there is any danger of an enforced retreat afterwards.

These we think are the main elements of the Scotch political mind, as shown in more recent years, and it has formed a valuable element in the discussion of great questions. Scotland is liberal and yet moderate; moving away from many of the old cherished landmarks, both political and ecclesiastical, she yet looks back upon them with a certain tender satisfaction; disliking, above all, the idea of revolt.

Mr. Charles Maclaren, who was one of the founders of the *Scotsman*, and its editor for a very long period of years, we are disposed to

* *Select Writings of the late Charles Maclaren*, Editor of the *Scotsman*. Edited by ROBERT COX, F.S.A. Scot., and JAMES NICOL, F.R.S.E. Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas.

take as a very good representative and proof of what we have just said. He was the son of decent, hard-working parents, who had just sufficient means to bring him up respectably and to give him a fair parish-school education. He was devoted to a trade, but turned out too physically weak for it; and, becoming a clerk, studied not only French and German and mathematics, but various departments of science; showing himself no mean adept in mechanics. But with manhood came a deep interest in the pressing practical questions of the time; and he was one of the very first to see that a possibility of independence, and freedom of political life in Scotland, lay dead or as good as dead, simply because, owing to Tory policy, it had no medium of making itself heard, and no rallying points for action. The *Scotsman* was established to supply this want, and met with an unexpected success. In not a few respects it did its work well; and for the very reason that there were combined in Mr. Maclaren so many of the best traits of the best type of Scotchman. His underlying characteristic is *canny* thoroughness—the determination to see all the sides of a question before being committed to any course in relation to it. Together with this, there is a quiet enthusiasm which, after a position has been taken up, never allows a doubt as to the policy of it; and, though this enthusiasm is never strong enough to break through the peculiar reserve of expression so as to give rise to anything approaching eloquence, yet it is always felt as a kind of unknown quantity behind the writing, giving character, if not colour, to it, and lying ready, if extreme pressure comes, to burst out into a blaze. Mr. Maclaren, indeed, is sometimes tantalising in the truly Scotch-like way in which he suddenly escapes, after a fine paragraph, into the cold air of statistics, while yet he never seems to feel as if his breath had been taken short. He is very equable, yet with possibilities of terrible impatience and anger. In spite of a tendency and a desire to see everything in its first principles, his is essentially a moderating mind; for he is at the same time doggedly practical, and his faith in the final victory of principles is so complete as to enable him to wait patiently. But he never ceases to work; and his rare faculty of taking up the standpoint of others, and disinterestedly writing out of it, often gave him great power. This is witnessed to by the large collection of matter we have here in the form of letters addressed, through the *Scotsman*, to this or that party or class in Scotland. The electors, the working men, the landed proprietors, the farmers, are thus addressed; and in these letters we have not only fullest acquaintance with the various topics, and clear command of figures, but an intimate knowledge of human nature and of the springs of action, and a quiet ripe political wisdom, often expressing itself in a hurried glimmer of humour, when very extreme situations and ideas are glanced at. Above all, an earnest moral feeling and a lofty regard for freedom and right, combine to raise these letters above the rank of ephemeral newspaper writing, and claim for them a permanent place in political literature. Mr. Maclaren proved himself a decisive Reformer, operating as a political force upon Scotland; but not so much by dint of a great mass of energy, as by the slow, cumulative force of many persistent efforts and impressions. He knew the secret of “pegging away,” and was always ready for the occasion; having not only great clearness and sagacity, but remarkable foresight, which, as we shall see, enabled him to move gradually towards his objects by circuits and flank movements.

“A Candid Appeal to the Electors of Great Britain” in April, 1831, is conceived not only with great skill, but unlike most of his efforts, does rise now and again into a note of eloquence; and, taken along with the letter next to it, “Moderation Recommended,” gives in little Mr. Maclaren's political creed, and also exhibits very clearly the most characteristic side of his nature. This, for instance, is remarkably deliberate and thoughtful writing for 1830:—

“If it would be imprudent to throw the whole representation of the country into the hands of the labouring classes, it would, on the other hand, be unjust to exclude them from their due share of it. It is too often forgotten that society exists for the protection of persons as well as property. Working men, though they have neither lands nor accumulated money, have feelings, rights, and interests, susceptible of injury from ignorant or partial legislation. Look at the militia laws, the impressment laws, the combination laws, the Castle-reach Act against cheap publications, what are these but monuments of the working classes being neglected, and their feelings disregarded by our legislators? And whence has this arisen? but from the want of some persons in Parliament, elected by them, and bound by the ties of duty and honour to watch over their rights? . . . Will any one maintain that three or four millions of active men are of no account in the State? Is it a matter of indifference whether they are satisfied

or contented? If Parliament should represent all the elements of power in the Kingdom—land, money, trade, science—is it not proper that it should comprehend the physical force of the country, the nerves and sinews by which its wealth is created, its battles fought, its power upheld?”

Nor is the following in 1832 any less far-sighted, or with less value to us at the present moment:—

“The day, we think, is coming when representatives will receive regular pay, as they do in America; but till it comes, the member who gives his gratuitous services, gives all that we have a right to expect, and ought not to be permitted to incur one shilling of expense otherwise. Whatever charges may arise for meetings, advertisements, &c., at the election, should be defrayed by the friends and supporters of each candidate, as was done at Westminster, where the persons chosen were not permitted to pay even the few shillings of fee exigible by the doorkeeper of the House of Commons. As for dinners or treats, there ought to be none, or they should be given by the constituents to the member; and if any man opens an alehouse or tavern, where his partisans may drink scot-free, that person is buying votes, and the fair interpretation is that he is going to sell his own. At all events, he insults his constituency, degrades their habits, and corrupts their principles. The most worthless and contemptible of all human beings is he who sells the rights and interests of his country, not for any solid advantage to himself, but for the privilege of making himself a boast by intemperance.”

Mr. Maclaren's wise moderation was not likely to be at all times appreciated by Radicals. Leigh Hunt, of the *Examiner*, who had little notion how utterly ineffective his high-flown delicate Radicalism would have been with the Scotch, made a descent on the *Scotsman*, which is thus parried by Mr. Maclaren:—

Our rule of action differs from our contemporaries in this respect, that we abstain from agitating speculative questions at times when we think their agitation would obstruct some practical good. For instance, our contemporary thought it his duty when the Reform Bill was proposed, to declare that he was by no means satisfied with it, but would accept it in the meantime as a step to greater changes. . . . A Conservative peer very shrewdly quoted nearly the whole article, in which this doctrine was preached, as an argument against the bill. . . . While the great struggle for reform lasted, and the success of the bill was at stake, we kept several topics in abeyance. We saw moderate and radical reformers co-operating; we thought it unwise to stir subjects which might alarm the former or to do anything that might divide public feeling, and divert attention from the one great question, which it required the unanimous efforts of all reformers to carry through. This we call prudence—with our contemporary it may probably pass for timidity, time-serving, want of heart, and the *justo milien*.”

The short article on “The Principle of Justice between Sects,” is exceedingly wise, but too complete to bear being extracted. Mr. Maclaren was also an unwearied worker in the field of science; having been the first to demonstrate in the year 1824 the practicability of railroad locomotion at the rate of twenty or twenty-five miles an hour. Indeed, on railroads he more frequently than elsewhere rises into eloquence—one of the finest articles we have ever read being that on “Steam Carriage—Experiments at Liverpool in 1829.” He also treated geological topics ably, and was learned on other subjects, the topography of Troy being his hobby, on which he wrote at considerable length, his views having come to be adopted by the most learned Germans. Altogether a clear-headed, large-hearted man, gentle, prudent, industrious, whose writings, in their solidity, grasp, and unaffected grace, contrast strangely with much we now read in journals. Nevertheless did Dean Alford chance to be the critic, he would own to having often been irritated with the “and which, and, and whom,” where the construction does not justify it! Even Professor Blackie in his small article on the work on Troy falls into this fatal error. The two editors have done their work well, having evidently done it *con amore*. Sometimes their notes are valuable.

HISTORICAL GLEANINGS.*

Professor Rogers has collected this new series of “Historical Gleanings” not as a mere piece of literary workmanship, still less with any idea of glorifying the four men whom he has selected as his subjects, but with the desire rather to draw from the story of the times in which they lived, or the exhibition of the principles with which they were identified, some lessons of permanent value. Of the four, indeed, Wiklif alone can be regarded as a hero; Laud and Wilkes are very much the reverse; and though Horne Tooke maintained a gallant struggle for the vindication of a principle which is at last, though slowly, beginning to be admitted, and though he excites our sympathy by the unjust and oppressive treatment to which he was subjected, he would scarcely have been selected for the position here given him merely because of his personal qualities. Throughout the book, however, the individual is subordinate to the com-

* *Historical Gleanings*. By J. E. THOROLD ROGERS, M. A. (Macmillan and Co.)

munity, and while we feel that the author's vivid portraiture has taught us to know man better, we feel too that with him this has been a secondary object, and that the chief value of the book consists in the clearer view it gives us of the life of the nation at some critical points in its history, and in the light it throws upon the way in which social influences operated to produce political and religious changes. By his special studies, not less than by his own mental habits and tastes, by his keen insight, and his broad and liberal sympathies, his appreciation of strength and goodness wherever found, and, on the other hand, his fearlessness in exposing common fallacies, or casting down unworthy popular idols, our author is specially fitted for the work he has undertaken. The liberality of some of his views may shock a few readers, for he can find good even in the Mohammedan system, and tells us that "notwithstanding the barbarous code of law, the coarse despotism, the indolence, sensuality, and violence which are the characteristics of the several Mohammedan governments of the world, they gain no little cohesion and vitality by their recognition of a central unity in the chief of Islam." Hardly less offensive to such readers will be his concessions as to the value of the Papacy in the middle ages, as supplying, after the fall of the German Empire, a bond of union, which in the unsettled state of affairs, and in the absence of the sentiments of nationality, was yet undeveloped. Mr. Rogers' aim, however, is to represent things as they are, and not as party-feeling has painted and would fain have them. He reads history, and judges its characters with those Catholic sentiments which are happily becoming more common, and he deserves the more credit for this, because his own convictions and sympathies are very decided. It is easy enough for a man who is perfectly indifferent to all principles and parties to assume a tone of lofty impartiality, and to preserve it, except in the judgments he forms of earnest champions of any creed, in which he is pretty sure to forget the moderation of which he is so fond of boasting. But this is by no means Professor Rogers' case. He is a decided opponent of Papal despotism, though he recognises the service which, under the special circumstances of the time, the Papacy was able to render to the cause of modern civilisation. On the other hand, his leanings are not to the Puritan theology, but the Puritan party receives justice at his hands. Some of his strong utterances are sure to be unpalatable to those who would have even the truth set forth in mild phraseology, but we admire not only his discriminating judgments, but the incisive style in which they are expressed. He has given a considerable amount of information, condensed into a small compass, presented in an agreeable form, and so employed as to bring out the true philosophy of the history.

The true idea of Wiclif's success as a Reformer is grasped by our author when he traces his power partly to his great personal gifts and partly to his strong national sympathies. True, there were many things which prepared the way for his work. The Popes were increasingly rapacious, and therefore unpopular; the monastic orders had lost their original character, and had made themselves extremely obnoxious to various classes of the community; but, above all, society had been convulsed by the ravages of the Black Death, that terrible pestilence which desolated a large portion of Europe in the fourteenth century. The effects of this fearful calamity in disturbing all social relations, sowing a discontent which threatened the foundations of order and government, and in leading to a general corruption of manners, are well described by our author. But most significant and suggestive is his account of the effect upon the Church. "The clergy had fallen victims to the plague in great numbers, and men pressed into the vast prizes which the profession offered at such a crisis. There is no better proof that a Church is decayed than the fact that the younger sons of an aristocracy grasp at and secure its emoluments by virtue of their birth. At the conclusion of the fourteenth century this phenomenon was manifest enough. . . . We owe the fires of Smithfield to these aristocratic prelates. Their support of the first king of the House of Lancaster was purchased with the passage of the statute for burning heretics. It is not in our own days only that a usurper seeks to enslave his subjects by enlisting the material interests of a hierarchy on his side." It is in passages like these, where the great principles which particular events illustrate are brought, and where parallelism of events in our own time and those of former days is suggested, that one of the great attractions of this volume is found, and nowhere is this power more shown than in the sketch of Wiclif and his times. The full weight is allowed for all predisposing

causes, inclining men to listen to such a preacher, and yet it is pointed out how much depended on himself, and more than anything else, perhaps, on the intensely English element in his character and his doctrines. The Popes had wounded the national sentiment. During their residence at Avignon they had been the mere tools of the French king, and lent themselves to the advancement of Gallican in opposition to English interests. Into this feeling Wiclif threw himself, and so gained power, not only with the populace, but with the king and the principal nobles. "He despised the favours and ridiculed the threats of the Roman See. He argued that all ecclesiastics should be subject to the civil power. The essence of his ecclesiastical system was political utility. He made no distinction, says Melancthon, in exaggeration, between the Gospel and the State. It was on principles like these that he argued when the King consorted him as to whether he might conscientiously forbid, in a time of great financial distress, the transmission of any contribution to the Papal coffers, that such an act was not only justifiable but a public duty." Of his theological tendencies and influences, Professor Rogers leaves others to treat, confining himself almost exclusively to these more general aspects of his work, aspects of the greatest importance to a right understanding of a great movement in which were the germs of the Reformation.

In the opening of his sketch of Laud, Professor Rogers points out an error into which ecclesiastics of our own time, forgetting the lesson they ought to have learned from the experience of their predecessors, have fallen. It has been the glory of the Anglican Church to have the support of the national aristocracy, and it has therefore identified itself with the Tory party, of which its clergy has been the most active and, not unfrequently unscrupulous, supporters. The promoters of such an alliance would do well to give heed to the words of warning which are contained in the following suggestive passage:—

"The doom of a Church which resists or affronts the religious convictions of a people cannot be long delayed. That of a Church which allies itself with a caste, or a political party, or a social order, may be delayed indeed, but only for a time. Its existence will be prolonged as long as such a caste, party, or order finds that its establishment is useful, or that its maintenance is not damaging to its patrons or allies; as long indeed as no solid sacrifices are required in order to prevent it. When association with it is dangerous or inconvenient, they who have made it their tool, by affecting to be its champion, will suffer it to perish. A party is always ungrateful to its advocates when their work is done and their services are no longer necessary. But a political order is utterly indifferent to the most sacred institutions when they cease to be serviceable. We need not appeal to recent history in support of these generalities. King and nobles made little stir against the downfall of the Church when the Long Parliament was resolved. On May 1, 1641, the Commons passed the Root and Branch Bill. On June 8 the Lords rejected it, on the third reading. But on February 5, 1642, after some remonstrance, the Lords passed a similar enactment and the King assented. Nor did the Scotch nobility, in whose interest the episcopal establishment of the Restoration was created, make any energetic resistance to its disestablishment at the Revolution. And if the nobles of the United Kingdom have not been strenuous in defending ecclesiastical institutions, still less have they been willing to suffer for them. I am not aware that since the Reformation, a single English nobleman has ever been a martyr, has ever shown any persistent devotion to the institutions in which he has been supposed to be peculiarly interested. But I know of a great many noblemen, the foundation of whose fortunes was the wealth of the unreformed Church, of not a few who did not scruple to pillage the Church of the Reformation of much that monarch and Parliament had left her. 'In the days of Mary,' says Michele, the Venetian Ambassador, 'the English in general'—he is speaking of the aristocracy and gentry whom he knew—'would turn Jews or Turks if their sovereign pleased, but the restoration of the abbey lands by the Crown keeps alive a constant fear among those who possess them.' In point of fact, establishments run two risks. They generally attach themselves to a party which is discredited by the people, and so provoke a larger hostility than their allies; and they are invariably sacrificed to the fears, and it must be added to the cupidity, of those who have made tools of them."

Professor Rogers' rapid review of the social and political relations of the religious controversy from the days of Elizabeth to those of the Long Parliament is very complete and singularly fair. His estimate of the position taken by Hooker, and of the secret of the advantage gained by him over the Puritans of the day, is one to which we can take no exception. The one had as little conception of religious equality or of true religious liberty as the other, and it was not difficult to prove that the Presbyterian system would have subordinated the civil to the ecclesiastical authority. On both sides, "three centuries ago, heresy, i.e., dissent from customary opinion on religious topics, was believed to be treason against the Divine Majesty, and to be punishable as treasonable only in a more cruel and symbolical way. To

"advocate toleration was to be called a Gallio. The quarrel of sects and opinions was a struggle for the mastery in which no person was allowed to be neutral, and in which the vanquished were liable to the worst fortunes of war, to the fate of prisoners where no quarter is given." Happily we are in different times, and for the new ideas which have become prevalent honour is given where honour is due. "In modern times the credit of being the first to advocate the doctrine of toleration must be shared between the Independents and the Quakers. The last attempt to inflict civil penalties on those who think for themselves and their fellow men will probably be made by the superior members of the Anglican Hierarchy." In the sketch of the great enemy of this "freedom, the man" whom many have considered "a martyr and a saint, and as many a meddling and mischievous fool who deserved the fate he met," there is nothing particularly new, but the salient features are brought out in distinct outline, and the general effect is very striking. Of Wilkes and Horne Tooke we shall speak fully in a subsequent article, in which we propose to compare the representation of the former here with that given in an interesting account of Wilkes and Cobbett just published.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAYS.

How to get through a wet, snowy Sunday in winter—or (still more depressing) a boisterous, howling, weeping Sunday in summer,—when one turns from the spiteful weather outside, to the calm malice of the green and white ornamental papers in the grate, and feels grace and goodness cooing out of every pore, till the cistern is so empty that we are in danger of an explosion of naughty temper;—how to get through such a Sunday,—there's the rub! Of course the problem presents no difficulties to the Sunday-school teacher or other Christian worker. To such it is a positive pleasure (*crede experto*) to don macintosh, leggings, overalls, and bad hat, and go out to contend with the Prince of the power of the air. The weather, strong to keep the Christian worker from his post, seems a visible and tangible Devil, and the body is permitted to take its share in the delight of wrestling with him. And as for the adults who won't do any church work on Sunday, and yet have so much unexhausted nervous force as to be capable of dire ennui,—I don't pity them,—let them fret. But "it is the children, Oh my brothers,"—that I have on my mind. (The Editor must excuse me for stumbling into the first person again, like the Bishop of — in his celebrated note. It irks me to have to call myself "the present writer," "the author of these lines," and so forth, so I break out of the cocoon of the third person, and "to return to my sheep," or rather to my lambs,—) I postulate that it is not good for children to read too much at a time—it is contrary to their physical well-being. Singing is very well for a variation, but you may soon have enough of that; and after you have given them as much reading, and singing, and catechising as is good for them, and the laws of their physical nature are asserting themselves in fidgets, and one child proceeds to extremities by sticking a pin into his neighbour behind, and extremities are not slow to return the compliment by means of a kick, and the bag of Æolus is clearly coming untied, and the weather outside is obviously bent on making itself at home inside,—what shall be done?

It is at this juncture that a Sunday play, a Sabbath game, is a *deus ex machina*—a godsend. For we may not set ourselves to beat down this physical vitality, as if it were a moral fault. We may not think to please the God of grace by disregarding the God of nature. The soul must not be permitted to keep its Sabbath at the expense of the body.

I am not going to plunge into the Sabbath question. I only want to "insense" dull parents and guardians into a Sunday entertainment that feeds the imagination, uses the hands, creates amusement, and at the same time impresses Scripture narratives on the memory, and aids the great purpose of the day. I have a couple of hundred wooden bricks and half-bricks, and a Noah's Ark. These are strictly reserved for Sunday—like Sunday clothes and Sunday puddings. With these bricks and animals we illustrate Scripture narratives. Last Sunday evening we had Rahab letting the spies down from the wall. The building of Jericho was a serious work. My construction was Rahab's house on the wall; and the spies in act of descending in a basket improvised of cardboard. On a former occasion we had the conversion of St. Paul. In one corner of the table was Jerusalem. In the opposite corner Damascus, with "the street called Straight," and Ananias just going into his house. Paul lay prostrate on the ground, just fallen from a horse much too small for him, and surrounded, I regret to say,

by Shem, Ham, and Japhet; but trifling inaccuracies like these are easily overcome by the victorious fancy of a child.

Next Sunday we shall have the disciples in the Lake of Galilee. The table-cloth will form the water, and will be arranged for the occasion in waves. Round about with the bricks we shall make the shore, putting Nazareth and other towns in their proper situation.

Now say, Oh parents and guardians! have I not given some of you an idea. Go and prosper with it. A joiner will soon make you the bricks of elm or ash. Noah's arks are cheap. And you will find in the very heart of the play many unexpected opportunities of fixing Scripture narratives and their spiritual lessons on the children's minds, while they receive all as part of the sacred play.

E. B.

MUSIC.

Mr. Henry Leslie's second concert of the present season at St. James's Hall, if not containing many novel features, thoroughly taxed the unique resources at his command. The first part of Thursday evening's programme was Mendelssohn's music to "Antigone," a work which he has made familiar to the British public, and which his choir of some two hundred well-trained male voices enables him to produce with grand effect. The performance throughout excited great interest, and a unanimous encore was given to the fine quartet "O Eros," and the well-known and picturesque "Hymn to Bacchus." The whole of the musical drama—which is connected by read passages, declaimed in this case with some lack of the requisite fire by Mr. Phillips—finely illustrates the versatility of the great composer, while recalling many movements in his other works. An excellent orchestra supported the choir. The second part of the concert commenced with Beethoven's beautiful violin concerto, played by Herr Joachim with unsurpassed expression and brilliant execution, and was received with enthusiastic applause. Miss Stephens, a *débutante*, followed, and sang "With Verdure Clad" with great taste and an agreeable soprano voice. The remarkable "chorus of Derivishes," from Beethoven's "Ruins of Athens" music, and the Turkish march from the same, closed a concert that appeared to give unqualified satisfaction to an appreciative and crowded audience.

On Monday evening the Tonic Solfa Association gave its first performance of "Judas Maccabees," at Exeter Hall, with a fair amount of success, the weakest point being the defective rendering of the recitatives, a matter beyond the control of the association. The choruses were delivered with much spirit, especially "See the Conquering Hero comes," which was unanimously *encored*. For a first attempt the performance was of a very encouraging nature, but some portions of the choir need additional strength, especially the sopranos. The principal vocalists were Miss Banks and Mr. Nelson Varley, who were supported by Miss Arabella Warren, Madame Burrington, and Mr. Orlando Christian. The performers, 700 in number, were under the management of Mr. Thomas Gardner, who laudably devotes himself to the work of yet further popularising Handel's sublime compositions.

THE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

Professor Pepper continues to cater with great judgment and success for the amusement of both young and old at this popular institution. His famous ghost illusions are constantly receiving new developments. The latest illustrations are founded on one or two passages from Sir Walter Scott's "Lay of the Last Minstrel," in which, by a combination of set scenery and optical illusion, an undoubtedly picturesque approach to the weird and supernatural is attained. The peculiarity of the newest ghosts is that the seeming spectres are multiplied, so that while one group remains stationary, two or three reflections of it float around, conveying in the most dreamy manner the notion of an unearthly existence. Hardly less praise is due to the series of beautiful magic-lantern views illustrating the charming history of Rip Van Winkle, in which are presented some fine panoramas of the Catskill mountains. The story is abbreviated, and told in lively fashion by the lecturer; and in a striking scene, where Rip is introduced into the sanatorium of Hendrich Hudson, the magic-lantern is for a while abandoned, and the picture is formed by living figures and "ghosts." Mr. Pepper does not neglect the instructive element. Lectures on the composition of the atmosphere or on the "spectrum analysis," and scientific knowledge imparted by means of dissolving views, agreeably diversify his programme, while a variety of scientific novelties and curiosities, the diving bell, and other well-known resources of the establishment, enable the visitor to spend both an agreeable and profitable afternoon or evening.

CRIME IN IRELAND.

At the opening of the assizes for the county of Cavan, Mr. Justice George remarked upon the extraordinary disparity between the amount of crime committed and the number of persons brought to justice. The crimes stated in the calendar comprised one homicide, in which eight persons were involved in the charge of murder, a case of conspiring to murder, one of infanticide, one of arson, a charge of sending a threatening letter, two of assault, one of which was committed in a chapel, twelve Whiteboy offences, and one larceny. His lordship observed that this was a fearful calendar of crime; but there was another view of it which was more important. Since the last assizes no fewer than seventy-six cases had been reported by the constabulary. Of these only twelve were to be prosecuted, involving twenty-eight people. In the same period there had been seven cases of arson, and yet not a single person had been made amenable or arrested on the charge, and in almost every department of crime there appeared the same ominous blank. In the third class of cases—offences against the public peace—although *prima facie* there was less difficulty in discovering the criminals in such cases, the same disproportion existed. There had been three cases of demands or robbery of arms, but the same story—no person in custody, no trial, a total failure of justice. In five cases unlawful oaths had been administered, and yet no one was made amenable. Worse still, there had been no less than thirty-five cases of sending threatening letters, and yet there was but one case for trial. He had looked through the report of the inspector of constabulary respecting the cases of sending threatening letters and administering unlawful oaths, and he found that in one case a party armed men entered the house of one Hugh Porter, and compelled the inmates to swear that they would not work for certain gentlemen. In another case a party of men entered a house and swore the occupants to give up certain land. In another case a party swore the person whom they visited to withdraw a certain notice. With respect to the threatening notices, his lordship said he found hardly any relation of life, hardly any interest of society, which was not affected by these threatening notices. They related to persons holding land, and forbade them paying rent; they even prohibited, in peremptory terms, the most common usages. They did not stop there. They entered into the most sacred transactions of society, and commanded people to do and abstain from doing acts which ought to be left to their perfectly free will. His lordship observed that it was a lamentable state of things that the writers of such foul documents should be allowed to go undetected and unpunished.

Chief Justice Whiteside, in opening the assizes for the county of Westmeath, followed the example of his judicial brethren in deploring the prevalence of crime. There had been three or four foul murders, or attempts to murder, and ninety-three threatening letters had been received since the last assizes, while in 1869 the entire number of offences committed from one assizes to the other was only twenty-eight.

The presiding judge at Wexford was happily able to congratulate the grand jury on the immunity of the district from serious crime, although he regretted to observe that the practice of sending threatening letters was on the increase. At Sligo and Enniskillen the judges congratulated the grand jury on the satisfactory state of the counties of Sligo and Fermanagh. Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, in opening the Cork Assizes on Monday, said the state of the counties included in the Munster Circuit was satisfactory as regards crime, and exhibited increased wealth and great improvement in the material condition of the people. The criminal calendar of the county of Cork presented no substantial cause for alarm, and contained no case calling for special remark. Instances of unconvicted crime were rare, and there was a steady diminution of general crime. There was, however, reason to believe that beneath the surface there existed a seditious and treasonable spirit, which awaited its own time to disturb the welfare and security of the community, but he trusted to the firm and impartial administration of the law.

In charging the grand jury of the county Meath, the Chief Justice of the Irish Court of Common Pleas expressed his alarm at the number and magnitude of the offences which have been committed within the past few months. Four or five men had been brutally murdered in open day, yet no one was made amenable to justice. Sixty or seventy threatening letters had been sent since the previous assizes, and in no instance had the offender been detected. He attributed to the "reign of terror" existing in the county the unwillingness of witnesses to come forward, and expressed his opinion that this feeling of fear would in time pass away.

The grand jury of the county of Meath have passed a resolution calling on the Government to suspend the Habeas Corpus Act.

The grand jury of Westmeath have called the attention of the Government to the continuance of undetected agrarian crime in Ireland, and the urgent necessity of giving effect to the suggestions made at the meetings of the magistrates in April last year and on the 24th of February last. The suggestions were the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in the proclaimed districts, and the formation of a detective force independent of, but connected with the police; the power of local taxation for outrages against property to be extended to outrages against the

person; a change of the incidents of taxation from land to residence.

What is known as "the Drumalloor case" of rioting has just been tried at Cavan. Eight Orange prisoners were put on their trial. The jury acquitted them. The verdict was received with cheers in the courthouse, and with yells by the crowd outside. The prisoners were publicly discharged. The crowd paraded the streets of Cavan, but there was no disturbance. At the Leitrim Assizes another batch of prisoners were charged with assaulting a congregation of Methodists. The same result followed as in the first trial—the jury disagreed. At the Mullingar Assizes a woman was convicted of writing a threatening letter, and was sentenced to five years' penal servitude. Four men were found by the police marching in military order, armed. They were convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

The four persons arrested on suspicion respecting the Usher's Quay murder in Dublin have been discharged, there being no evidence to warrant their committal for trial. The affair is still a mystery.

An agrarian outrage is reported from county Armagh. The house of a respectable farmer, named Rafferty, was entered by twenty men with firearms. The farmer hid himself on their approach. After a search, and not finding the man, they broke everything in the house. Some tenants had been ejected.

THE WELSH FASTING GIRL.

The magisterial inquiry into the charge of manslaughter against the parents of Sarah Jacobs and the medical men who attended her has been going on during the week. The vicar of the parish was called, and stated that Mr. Davies, surgeon, was present at the meeting when it was determined that the girl should be watched, and that he agreed to serve on the medical committee. He also deposed that Mr. Hughes, surgeon, objected to the appointment of relatives as nurses. This evidence was given to prove the action taken by the doctors in the watching of the girl. On Saturday the principal witness examined was Dr. Fowler, of Bishopsgate-street. He stated that on the 30th of last August he visited the girl, whom he found in bed, dressed, with a wreath of ribbons and flowers on her head and a bunch of flowers on her breast. Her face was plump and pretty, and her lips and cheeks of a natural rosy colour. By permission of the mother—who said the girl had fasted for twenty-six months—he examined her, and he noticed that her eyes were bright and had a restless to-and-fro movement in them, indicative, in his opinion, of simulated disease. While he was there the child had what the mother called a fit, but the symptoms were not consistent with a fainting fit, they were those of an hysterical fit. Her left side was said to be paralysed, but he could not detect any symptoms, and on tickling her left foot he observed the muscle and tendons of the leg quiver. He was not allowed to examine her back for bed-sores, the father and mother stating that it would bring on a fit. Dr. Fowler said he thought that if the house had been on fire it would soon have been seen that the girl was able to get out of bed. He offered to get the girl into an infirmary, where, he said, she would no doubt be cured, but the parents refused to allow her to go. On Monday, John Griffiths, better known as the Gohebydd, deposed to having seen the girl in April, September, and November last. On one occasion he suggested the child's removal to a hospital, but to this the father objected. The parents, however, acceded to the suggestions for watching the girl, which were made by Dr. Phillips, of Guy's Hospital. Elizabeth Clinch, one of the professional nurses, was afterwards examined. She stated that when she asked what was to be done about the girl's having food, Mr. Lewis said, "You are to watch if she takes food or not. If she asks for it it is to be given her. Sometimes she takes a little water to moisten her lips; if she asks give it her. It will be better not to deter all visitors from the room. The nurse was told to send for Mr. Davies, the surgeon, if she saw any danger. The parents were to be allowed to enter the room and have access to the girl. The nurse then went into details of each day's watching. It is believed that if the defendants are committed for trial the case will not be ready for the assizes. Yesterday full details were given by the professional nurses respecting the symptoms manifested by the girl during the period of the watching. The investigation was again adjourned.

Miscellaneous.

THE THORNCLEIFFE COLLIERY DISPUTE.—The negotiations for the settlement of the dispute at the Thorncliffe Collieries have failed. The old men refuse to resume work unless an advance is paid, which the masters decline to give; and the pits will, therefore, now be worked on the free labour principle.

INJURY TO THE TELEGRAPH WIRES.—Mr. Soudamore, Second Secretary at the General Post Office, informs us that on Sunday afternoon communication between London and Liverpool, and London and Manchester, by telegraph, was interrupted upon three wires to each town. The fault was speedily discovered to be between Barnet and St. Albans, and on further inquiry being made, it was found that at a spot near to Barnet the wires in question had been maliciously twisted together from pole to

pole. Active steps are being taken with a view to ascertain by whom the offence was committed.

THE WICKLOW PEERAGE CASE.—When the hearing of the claim to the Wicklow peerage was resumed in the House of Lords on Monday, their lordships directed Mrs. Howard, the lady who has put forward the infant claimant as her son, to submit herself for cross-examination by Sir Roundell Palmer. She, however, refused to be sworn, and was committed to the custody of Black Rod for contempt of court. Witnesses were then called to prove that in August, 1864, Mrs. Howard went through the lying-in ward of the Liverpool Workhouse in search of a child with blue eyes and fair hair, and that ultimately an infant belonging to a pauper named Mary Best was selected and taken away by Mrs. Howard to be adopted. Counsel for the claimant stated that time was required to produce rebutting testimony, and the case stands adjourned for a week. Mrs. Howard was released from custody on condition of her paying the usual fees.

MR. OSBORNE, M.P., IN A DIFFICULTY.—The *Waterford Standard* relates a melancholy incident connected with the late election in that city. Mr. Bernal Osborne, in escaping from the hotel at which he was staying in company with a friend, descended from the roof of an adjoining house into a large water tank. He was at first mistaken for a burglar; but when it was discovered that he was only a member of Parliament, nothing could exceed the kindness of the inmates of the house. To prevent his discovery, it was proposed to put him into a large drawer; but owing to the dimensions of the fugitive this was found to be impossible, and the idea was abandoned. He accordingly remained where he was, until the "city began to assume a tranquil aspect," when he retraced his steps to the hotel by means of the roof, an overcoat being wrapped round him by friendly hands.

THE REPRESENTATION OF BRISTOL.—On Friday night a crowded meeting was held at the Broadmead Rooms. Mr. E. S. Robinson, the ex-Mayor, spoke in favour of trades unions. He denied that he paid low wages to his printers, and challenged the trade societies to examine his scale. He is in favour of secular education, with the converse of the conscience clause in the Government scheme. He was for throwing open the Universities to Dissenters, and general economy. He advocated the reduction of public-houses, with compensation to the landlords for their vested interests. He was a recent convert to the ballot. A resolution was adopted, with few dissentients, expressing confidence in Mr. Robinson, and a promise to support him when a vacancy occurs, and approving a test ballot between him and Mr. Kirkham Hodgson. The proposed ballot is likely to be taken next week. It is understood that Mr. George Odger will proceed to Bristol this week with a view of putting himself in nomination for that city.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.—In a letter dated January 18, addressed to Sir Edward Sabine, President of the Royal Society, by Sir Thomas Maclear, Astronomer Royal at the Cape of Good Hope, occurs the following passage:—"I am very anxious for news of Dr. Livingstone. The last was from Ujiji, dated in May. Ujiji is seated near the north-east border of Lake Tanganyika. He had been robbed of the supplies forwarded to him from Zanzibar; and the chief of the place refused the assistance he needed, or to permit letters from him to be conveyed to Zanzibar. He had written some forty letters while slowly recovering from illness, which he wished to forward. Some of these, no doubt, were records of astronomical observations made at particular localities. He attributed the hostility of the people to their suspicion that he would expose their slave-dealings. His old friend, Dr. Kirk, who is acting political agent at Zanzibar, will make every possible effort to relieve him; but, unfortunately, the influence of the authorities at Zanzibar does not reach the remote position of Ujiji."—*Athenæum*.

THE MISSING CITY OF BOSTON STEAMSHIP.—No news of this steamer has yet been received. The nominal premium is now seventy guineas, but no business has been done. The *Helvetia* steamship, just arrived at Liverpool, reports great quantities of field and berg ice, which is six weeks earlier than usual. The *Prussian*, which arrived in Liverpool on Saturday, brought no tidings of the City of Boston. For 100 miles after leaving Portland the *Prussian* had westerly winds, but from that point there were strong easterly gales. It is stated that the Channel Squadron, which sailed from Lisbon, have instructions to look out for the missing steamer, and to assist her. Homeward-bound vessels are detained by easterly gales. The captain of the *Ben Nevis*, just arrived from Melbourne, says—"On the 24th of February, in lat. 49° 35' N., and long. 17° 20' W., sighted a steamer disabled, and apparently making for the Irish Channel; she was schooner-rigged and under sail. Tried to get near her to ascertain name and particulars, but weather was unfavourable for approaching." The *City of Boston* is not schooner-rigged, but is a full-rigged ship. The most sanguine are now, however, beginning to feel hopeless as to her safety.

SHOCKING TRAGEDY AT OLD FORD.—On Saturday evening the bodies of a man named Edward Banks and his wife were found in their house at Old Ford, near Bow, in such a state of decomposition that it is believed they had been dead for several days. Banks, it appears, was a ticket-of-leave man, and was always afraid that his neighbours would discover his character. He and his wife lived very

unhappily together, and some time ago the landlord of the house, who lived next door, disliking the man for the way in which he treated his wife, gave him notice to quit. Since that time Banks has been observed to be very low-spirited, and is supposed to have thought that his landlord had ascertained that he was a ticket-of-leave man. On Thursday and Friday it was noticed that the blinds of the house were drawn down, and on Saturday the house was entered, and Banks and his wife were found dead. A saucepan, in which was some burned charcoal, was found on the fireplace, and all the crevices by which air could enter the room were carefully pasted over with pieces of newspaper. In the pocket of Mrs. Banks's dress was found a bottle containing laudanum, and a letter, which was addressed, "To my mother." The letter was opened by the police, and inside, written by a female hand, were the words, "I can bear it no longer." Whether the case was one of murder and suicide, or one of double suicide, is not at present known.

TEMPERANCE PERMANENT LAND AND BUILDING SOCIETY.—The sixteenth annual report of this society, which has just been issued, shows the following results:—The total receipts of the year amounted to 431,000*l*. The shares issued during the year numbered 16,433. The subscriptions withdrawn by members amounted to 53,000*l*, leaving at their credit more than 534,000*l*. Nearly 57,000*l*. were received on deposit at four per cent. interest, and 50,700*l*. were repaid to depositors, leaving at their credit more than 132,000*l*. 42,500*l*. were received for interest and premiums on the investments of the society. The sums advanced on houses amounted to 272,000*l*. The amount remaining out on houses and land, and secured by mortgage, was 698,000*l*.; the total sum advanced on this description of security since the commencement of the society being more than 1,370,000*l*. The assets of the society have been increased by 107,000*l*, and amount to nearly 800,000*l*. The directors have been able to apportion profit to investing shareholders at the same rate as preceding years, viz., 7½ per cent. per annum on the subscriptions at the credit of the shares in force. They have also apportioned profit on uncompleted shares withdrawn during the year (in addition to the profit paid on withdrawal), at the rate of four per cent. per annum for the portion of the year expired prior to the receipt of the notice of withdrawal. After providing for charges of management, &c., the balance of profit has been carried to the reserved or contingent fund account, which now stands at 68,286*l*.

TONIC SOL-FA IN MADAGASCAR.—The Rev. J. Richardson, who lately left England for Madagascar, and is now occupied in learning the Malagash language at Antananarivo, is succeeding admirably in introducing the Tonic Sol-fa method. Not only is his work valuable in improving the psalmody of the mission churches, but he finds that he can scarcely have better practice in the language than he gets when endeavouring to make the Malagash understand the principles of music. Mr. Richardson writes to Mr. Curwen:—"Do not think that all has been easy work. Far from it, and now we are looked upon jealously by many of the higher classes who can themselves sing, as well as by others who think it is fit only for women and children. The Malagash are very conceited about their style of singing, and only since my arrival, after Mr. Toy had preached about it, was an Englishman invited to practise singing in the palace. Their singing is simply such tunes as 'Cranbrook' and 'Zion,' which they revel in, and they put innumerable twirls and grace notes in. They have first-rate voices, some of the bass are remarkably clear. The treble is shrill and sometimes harsh. They always sit, and it is a national custom partly to cover the mouth with their *lamba*. They have no taste, and their only idea of music is to answer each other in any kind of time, bass and alto to tenor and treble. These are the difficulties to contend with, but I do not despair, as they are the best-tempered people I ever saw. There are frequently 300 spectators at our Tuesday and Thursday's class, which consists of 150 picked voices."

THE ABYSSINIAN PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY.—At the sitting of the committee on Thursday Lord Napier of Magdala was again under examination. It had been said that the use of carts constituted an unnecessary expenditure, but his lordship attributed the rapidity of the advance upon Magdala to this means. He considered there was a great saving of time in placing the organisation in the hands of the Bombay Government. That was a great element of success, and everything depended upon it. He suggested at the time that the organisation of the Land Transport Corps should be distinct from the other part of the expedition, and had this been acted upon, a great loss of animals might have been saved. Lord Napier added, that although some mistakes were made these would not account for any considerable portion of the expenditure of 9,000,000*l*. sterling, and were not worthy the attention of a great nation. In continuing his evidence on Friday, his lordship corrected a prevalent impression—that two years' stores for the whole army were shipped. The provisions and stores were sent on his own requisition; in the first place, he asked to be furnished with a six months' continuous supply, and then the periods were from three months to a like term. There were many reasons why the army should have had a good supply, for if they had advanced without it, and had been met by hostile tribes, they would doubtless have been

hunted out of the country. The Chairman pointed out that a very large proportion of the forage ordered at Bombay had not been landed at Zoula, and his lordship referred the committee to the commissariat officer for information on this point. He placed no reliance upon the resources of the country, because any accident might have cut off their provisions. Lord Napier expressed his belief that the commissariat officers acted under the greatest sense of responsibility, and would not have sanctioned the slightest waste that could have been avoided.

ENTERTAINMENT TO THE INMATES OF A WORKHOUSE.—So much has been recently said and written about the mismanagement of workhouses and neglect of the inmates, that it is refreshing to notice any movement that has for its object the promotion of the comfort and happiness of those poor people who are constrained from various causes to betake themselves for refuge, temporarily or permanently, within the walls of a workhouse. The members of the Christian Community on Thursday evening gave their annual treat to the inmates of St. George's-in-the-East Workhouse. This community, the members of which are chiefly working men, was established in 1772 for the purpose of visiting workhouses, refuges, lodging-houses, &c., reading the Bible, or addressing a few words of spiritual comfort to the persons whom they find in these places. The guardians and chaplains in many cases have not only given entire consent to the visits from the members, but have warmly co-operated with them in the good work. Mr. Robert Baxter is the present President of the Committee. In order to show the paupers that their temporal as well as spiritual benefit is considered, annual treats have been organised to the inmates of those workhouses which the members of the community have access to. St. George's-in-the-East is, perhaps, one of the largest workhouses in London, there being at present 1,050 inmates, but to the credit of the guardians the sanitary arrangements seem everything that can be desired, while cleanliness and order are apparent in every ward throughout the building. In the early part of the evening the sick wards were visited and cake and oranges distributed among the old and infirm, and, as far as time would permit, they were conversed with in a kind and sympathising manner. Later in the evening the able-bodied paupers, to the number of about 600, assembled in the large hall, and after listening to addresses from Mr. Deputy-Judge Payne, the Revs. Mr. Foy (chaplain) and C. W. Banks, Mr. G. Kirkham, and other gentlemen, were regaled in a similar way. They seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves, and very grateful for the treat afforded them. The interesting proceedings were brought to a conclusion in the usual way.

Gleanings.

Among the prohibitory clauses proposed for a grace of the Senate of Cambridge is one forbidding undergraduates "to resort to or take part in meetings for the purpose of pigeon-shooting."

An industrious old man in Eastern Connecticut, whose early education was neglected, has put out a sign announcing: "Goin out whitewashin done in here."

Fifty-three members of Parliament have consented to add their names to the Parliamentary committee of the Society of Arts for promoting the reduction of the rate of postage to one halfpenny for four ounces of printed paper.

"Well," said Douglas Jerrold to the collector of a fund in behalf of a suffering friend, "how much does — want this time?" "Why, just a four and two noughts will, I think, put him straight," the bearer of the hat replied. "Well," said Jerrold, "put me down for one of the noughts."

WORTHY OF IMITATION.—The Charentes Railway Company now places hot-water foot-warmers in the second and third class carriages, as well as in the first; this example is worthy of imitation on the great lines.—*Galignani*.

RETRENCHMENT EXTRAORDINARY.—*L'Histoire* says it has been remarked that the Empress Eugénie this year sometimes appears twice in the same day in the same dress, which was never the case before. The journal adds that this is an application of the Parliamentary system to the toilette of the Sovereign.

A CATHEDRAL VERGER AT FAULT.—An instance, remarks the *Durham Chronicle*, of the possibility of a distinguished personage (when divested of his insignia of office or robes of state, and unaccompanied by his customary surroundings of pomp and circumstance), being sometimes merged by undiscerning mortals in an ordinary individual, was afforded at the Cathedral on Sunday last. Just as the afternoon service was about to commence, a gentleman entered the chancel, and requested the attendant verger to show him to a seat. "Nay, nay, aw cannot; there's only one star left, and that's for the Joodge," was the reply given with characteristic brusqueness of manner and broadness of Northumbrian accent. "Well, my good man, I am the Judge," was the rejoinder, which somewhat staggered the official, who had failed to recognise in the quiet, unassuming gentleman, the same imposing minister of justice whom, when appalled in scarlet and ermine, he had ushered with so much ceremony to his place at morning service.

NOTICE.—All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage-stamps.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

COX.—December 29, at Surrey Lodge, near Adelaide, South Australia, the wife of the Rev. F. W. Cox, of a daughter.
SNOW.—March 7, at Laurel Grove, Penge, the wife of John Snow, jun., of Paternoster-row, of a daughter.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, March 2.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£34,093,200	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	19,098,200
	£34,093,200		£34,098,200

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,563,000	Government Securities (inc. dead weight annuity)	£13,831,314
Reserve	8,694,606	Other Securities ..	19,493,317
Public Deposits	9,793,372	Notes	11,438,740
Other Deposits	17,274,771	Gold & Silver Coin	981,255
Seven Day and other Bills	447,832		
	£45,693,626		£45,693,626

March 3, 1870.

Geo. Forbes, Chief Cashier.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Hops on.—It is peculiarly gratifying to the discoverer of these inestimable remedies to receive unsolicited testimonials of cures of all descriptions of diseases effected by his medicaments after every other previous treatment had failed. The most tortured sufferers may take heart and hope on for a short time, until they have given a fair trial to Holloway's patent medicines. The Ointment, applied according to the directions affixed to each pot, will with ease and expedition cure all sores, wounds, sprains, erysipelas, gout, and cutaneous eruptions. Rubbed upon the chest, it removes pectoral diseases. The Pills are infallible in cases of indigestion, sick headaches, coughs, asthma, shortness of breath, biliousness, liver complaints, and debility.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, March 7.

We had small supplies of English and foreign wheat for today's market, the near ports still being closed by the frost. The trade was firmer, and all good samples of English wheat met a ready sale, at an advance of 1s. per qr. from the rates of this day week. Foreign wheat also was 1s. per qr. higher. Country flour was 1s. per sack, and American 6d. per barrel dearer. Peas and beans were steady, at former prices. Barley made 1s. per qr. advance. Indian corn was 6d. per qr. higher. Of oats we have unusually small arrivals, and parcels ex granary made 3d. to 6d. per qr. over last Monday's quotations. Cargoes on the coast have met improved demand at 1s. per qr. advance on wheat, and 6d. per qr. on Indian corn and barley.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
Essex and Kent.	s. d.	s. d.
Red, old	44 to 46	31 to 32
Ditto new	36 43	33 39
White, old	45 49	33 36
" new	39 48	33 36
Foreign red	39 40	33 35
" white	42 44	
BARLEY—		
English malting ..	26 30	
Chevalier	34 40	
Distilling	30 34	
Foreign	29 31	
MALT—		
Pale	— —	
Chevalier	— —	
Brown	48 54	
BEANS—		
Ticks	32 34	
Harrow	35 37	
Small	— —	
Egyptian	34 37	
PEAS—		
Grey	31 to 32	
Maple	33 39	
White	33 36	
Boilers	33 36	
Foreign, boilers ..	33 35	
RYE	31 32	
OATS—		
English feed	18 19	
" potato	22 23	
Scotch feed	— —	
" potato	— —	
Irish black	15 17	
" white	16 17	
Foreign feed	16 17	
FLOUR—		
Town made	37 43	
Country Marks ..	32 33	
Norfolk & Suffolk	27 28	

BREAD, Saturday, March 5.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for wheaten bread, per 4lbs. loaf, 7d. to 7½d.; Household bread, 6½d. to 6¾d.

WOOL, Monday, March 7.—Although the business doing has been only moderate, the market has been firm, and prices have been well supported.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, March 7.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 7,740 head. In the corresponding week in 1869, we received 13,972; in 1868, 1,971; in 1867, 11,725; and in 1866, 14,441 head. Notwithstanding that the supply of beasts at market to-day has been only moderate, and that some good seasonable stock has been on sale, the trade has been in a depressed state, and forced sales could only have been concluded on lower terms. This heaviness is undoubtedly the result of large supplies of dead meat sent up from the north of England and the provinces, in consequence of butchers finding it more advantageous to purchase their meat killed, owing to the difficulty of getting the live stock to their own slaughter-houses. Until, therefore, the establishment of a market for the sale of foreign stock take place, and the authorities are thereby enabled to extend the prohibitory orders respecting the removal of cattle beyond the four mile radius, it is very evident that the receipts of stock from our own grazing districts will continue to fall short of their former liberal proportions. The quality of the Scotch beasts on sale to-day has been satisfactory, and Norfolk also has been fairly represented. For all breeds the inquiry has been limited, and the choicest stock has been with difficulty disposed of at 5s. per 8 lbs. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire we received about 1,100, from other parts of England about 500 various breeds; from Scotland, 217 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland 100 oxen. With English and foreign sheep the market has been more freely supplied. More animation has been noticed in the trade, and the best Downs and half-breeds have sold at 5s. 10d. to 6s. per 8 lbs. Some white-faced shorn sheep have been disposed of at about 5s. per 8 lbs. Lambs have been in moderate request at from 7s. 6d. to 8s. per 8 lbs. Calves have been sold at about late

rates. Figs have been in limited request, at previous quotations.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

Inf. coarse beasts	s. d.	s. d.	Prime Southdowns	s. d.	s. d.
2 to 3 10	4 6	4 6	5 to 6 0	0 0	0 0
Second quality	4 0	4 6	Lambs	0 0	0 0
Prime large oxen	4 8	4 10	Lge. coarse calves	4 2	5 0
Prime So. to, &c.	4 10	5 0	Prime small ..	5 4	6 0
Coarse inf. sheep	3 4	4 0	Large hogs ..	4 6	5 4
Second quality	4 2	4 6	Neatam. porkers	5 6	6 10
Fr. coarse woolled	5 2	5 6			

Suckling calves 22s. to 26s., and quarter-old store pigs, 30s. to 26s. each.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, March 7.—Moderate supplies of meat on sale. With cooler weather the trade has been firmer, and prices have ruled as under. The import into London last week consisted of 69 packages from Harlingen, 12 baskets from Nieuwe Diep, and 13 bags from Antwerp.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

Inferior beef	s. d.	s. d.	Middling ditto	s. d.	s. d.
3 to 4 10	4 4	4 4	4 0	4 4	4 4
Middling ditto	4 0	4 4	Prime ditto ..	4 6	4 10
Prime large do.	4 4	4 6	Veal	4 10	5 4
Do. small do.	4 6	4 8	Small pork ..	4 8	5 4
Large Pork ..	3 10	4 4	Lambs	6 8	7 4
Inf. mutton ..	3 6	4 0			

PROVISIONS, Monday, March 7.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 243 firkins butter, and 3,300 boxes bacon, and from foreign ports 23,562 packages butter and 388 boxes bacon. Irish butter sold at irregular prices last week, according to condition and quality. The stock is now much reduced, and all will be wanted before the new season. The quality of the Dutch butter being indifferent, prices declined to 120s. and 118s. For other descriptions of finest foreign little change in prices. The bacon market ruled quiet, and prices were the turn in favour of buyers.

COVENT GARDEN, March 5.—The leading growers have not attended this market above once or twice weekly, and consequently our supplies are not beyond the required quantity. The improvement noticed last week has been fully maintained, good articles being in better request. Continental supplies comprise asparagus, cauliflowers, French beans, carrots, and the usual variety of salad. New potatoes have arrived from Malta, Algiers, and the West Indies. Flowers consist principally of heaths, primulas, cinerarias, hyacinths, tulips, &c., which have become plentiful during the last few days.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, March 7.—Our market presents no change worthy of notice. A limited hand-to-mouth trade still exists for new home-growths, at late extreme rates; but all other descriptions remain unnoticed. Five new foreign are tolerably firm, and the choicest sorts of new Americans are offered at figures ranging from 95s. to 112s.; but sales are very slow, and holders willing to concede a little in favour of buyers; inferior grades are totally neglected. Yearlings and olds of all kinds attract no attention, even at quotations considerably below nominal value. Imports for the week ending 5th March, 1,378 bales, against 2,314 bales the previous week. The Continental markets are unaltered. New York advices to the present date report the market quiet, with a tendency to firmness in fine parcels. Mid and East Kent, 71. 0s., 94. 5s., to 121. 12s.; Wealds, 64. 0s., 71. 0s., to 81. 0s.; Sussex, 61. 12s., 61. 6s., to 64. 12s.; Bavarians, 64. 0s., 71. 7s., to 91. 0s.; French, 61. 0s., 64. 15s., to 64. 10s.; Americans, 44. 5s., 61. 5s., to 61. 0s.; Yearlings, 11. 10s., 24. 0s., to 31. 15s. The import of foreign hops into London last week consisted of 78 bales from Antwerp, 39 Boulogne, 471 Bremen, 90 Calais, 20 Nieuwe Diep, 82 Ostend, and 48 bales from Rotterdam.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, March 7.—Supplies have come moderately to market. There has been a fair demand for most descriptions, at our prices. The imports into London last week consisted of 126 sacks from Dunkirk, 305 bags from Antwerp, and 30 sacks 141 bags from Odessa. English Shaws, 120s. to 130s. per ton; English Regents, 75s. to 110s. per ton; Scotch Regents, 75s. to 110s. per ton; Scotch rocks, 70s. to 75s. per ton; French, 60s. to 70s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, March 7.—The few fine samples of English cloverseed which come out meet a ready sale, as they appear at high prices. Foreign red samples are held with much firmness. Choice English trefoil was very dear, with a steady sale. Useful foreign qualities were held at late rates. White cloverseed remain very dear, and are taken off in small lots, to suit the immediate wants of the buyers at extreme prices. There was no material variation in the value of Mustard-seeds. White samples sell steadily. Foreign tares realised more money. Canary-seed keeps up in value.

OIL, Monday, March 7.—Lined oil has ruled dull at 11. 11s. 9d. spot, but forward there has been a good inquiry at 11. 12s. March-April, and 11. 2s. 6d. March-June. English brown rape oil has receded to 27. 1s. spot, short prompt. Niger oil 34s. per ton. Oude cotton unaltered.

TALLOW, Monday, March 7.—The market has been quiet. Y. O., spot, 46s. per cwt. Town tallow, 44s. net cash.

COAL, Monday, March 7.—Market heavy, at last day's rates. Hettons Wallsend, 18s. 6d.; Hartlepool original, 18s. 6d.; Hawthorn, 17s.; Kelloe, 16s. 3d.; Thorpe, 15s. 6d.; Eden Main, 16s. Ships fresh arrived, 69; ships left from last day, 3; ships at sea, 25.

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GOLD WATCHES, " £20 0

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GOLD WATCHES, " £22 0

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £18 18

CLOCKS, CARRIAGE, £5 0

CLOCKS, " (STRIKING), £7 7

CLOCKS, " " (ON GONG), £12 12

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NONCONFORMISTS and the GOVERNMENT EDUCATIONAL BILL.

A MEETING of NONCONFORMISTS, convened by Circular, was held in CARR'S LANE LECTURE ROOM, BIRMINGHAM, on WEDNESDAY, March the 2nd;

W. MIDDLEMORE, Esq., J.P., in the Chair.

Mr. R. W. Dale having explained the objects for which the Meeting had been convened, Mr. G. Dawson spoke on the general principles which should govern the action of Nonconformists in relation to the educational principles of the Government.

It was proposed by Rev. C. VINCE; seconded by Rev. H. W. CROSSKEY, and

RESOLVED—

That this Meeting, representing various Nonconformist Bodies, strongly protests against the proposal of the Government Educational Bill to give to Local Boards unrestricted power to determine the religious character of schools to be aided and supported by local rates. This proposal is a practical adoption of the unjust and irreligious principle of concurrent endowment; it establishes a new form of religious taxation not less objectionable than Church-rates, rendering the minority in every district liable to the payment of a rate for the support of whatever form of religious teaching the majority may approve, and thus giving occasion to sectarian conflicts which will be most injurious to the social harmony and religious well-being of the community. That this Meeting further objects to that clause in the bill which permits her Majesty's inspectors to inquire into the religious instruction given in schools; and also to the power conferred upon Local Boards to enforce the attendance of children at denominational schools, under a conscience clause of a wholly unsatisfactory kind.

It was proposed by Rev. J. J. BROWN, seconded by J. CHAMBERLAIN, Esq., and

RESOLVED—

1. That in all schools established or supported by local rates, the instruction should be absolutely unsectarian. 2. That in all denominational schools aided by Government grants, the sectarian instruction should be given before or after the ordinary school work, and provision be made that attendance at such religious teaching should not be compulsory, and that there should be no disability for non-attendance.

It was proposed by Rev. C. CLARK; seconded by Rev. B. BIRD, and

RESOLVED—

That the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, be requested to act as a Committee, to assist and direct the Nonconformist agitation against the Government Education Bill:—

Rev. J. J. Brown
Rev. H. W. Crosskey
Rev. C. Clarke
J. Chamberlain
J. A. Cooper
Jesse Collins
R. W. Dale
G. Dawson
Rev. G. Follows
Rev. H. Holland
Rev. J. Hargreaves
Councillor William Harris
Alderman Holland

Rev. G. B. Johnson
Rev. W. McKerron
Timothy Kenrick
W. Morgan
Rev. M. Macfie
W. Middlemore
F. Oiler
A. Partridge
H. Peyton
Rev. J. Renshaw
Rev. C. Vince
J. S. Wright
J. B. Williams

W. MIDDLEMORE, J.P., Chairman and Treasurer.
R. W. DALE,
H. W. CROSSKEY, } Secretaries.

AT A MEETING of the DEPUTIES of PROTESTANT DISSENTERS of the three Denominations—PRESBYTERIAN, INDEPENDENT, and BAPTIST—in and within twelve miles of London appointed to protect their civil rights, held at the CITY TERMINUS HOTEL, CANNON-STREET, on THURSDAY, the 3rd of March, 1870.

Present—Charles Reed, Esq., M.P., in the chair.

It was resolved:—

"That in the opinion of this Meeting the provisions in the Elementary Education Bill of the Government that relate to religious instruction are unsatisfactory and objectionable, and that the Committee to be appointed to-day be requested to take steps with the view of obtaining the amendment of these provisions."

CHARLES SHEPHEARD,

Secretary.

78, Coleman-street, E.C.

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